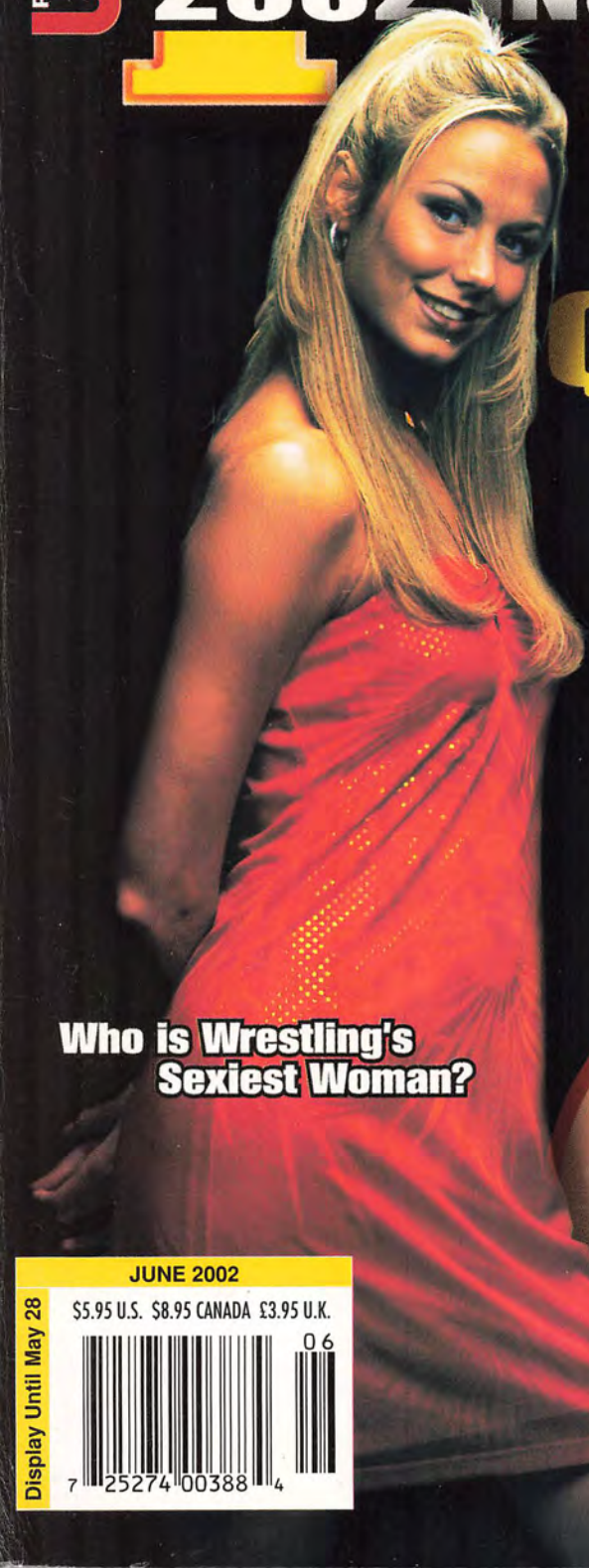
NWO'S WWF INVASION: WE CALLED IT FIVE YEARS AGO!

Pro Wrestling Illustrated

PWI

2002 INSIDERS' POLL

50 Red-Hot Questions Answered!



Who is Wrestling's Sexiest Woman?

Who is Wrestling's Next Breakout Hollywood Star?

When Will Goldberg Debut in The WWF?

WELCOME BACK WORLD OF WRESTLING WOW MAGAZINE READERS!

JUNE 2002
$5.95 U.S. $8.95 CANADA £3.95 U.K.
06
7 25274 00388 4
Display Until May 28

THE 2002 PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED WRESTLING ALMANAC

IT'S THE ULTIMATE WRESTLING REFERENCE BOOK!

THIS DIGEST-SIZED CHUNK OF HISTORY HAS IT ALL! WE'RE TALKING 228 PAGES OF REFERENCE MATERIAL! UPDATED! CHOCK-FULL OF NEW INFORMATION!

- **Statistics for hundreds of wrestlers worldwide!**
- **Comprehensive title histories of the sport's top championships–active and inactive!**
- **Results of every pay-per-view card, non-PPV supercard, and Clash of Champions!**
- **Analysis of the 10 biggest news stories of 2001!**
- **Complete listing of all 11 "*PWI* 500s"!**
- **Much, much more!**

5891/01-02

Coming March 19!

If you can't find it

ORDER IT!

☑ YES! I would like to order my copy of the ***2002 PWI Almanac***. I have enclosed $7 in check or money order (postage included) as payment in full.

Send To:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Name_____

Address_____ Apt._____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

For all orders outside the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every issue to be sent surface mail, and $3 for every issue to be sent airmail. International money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

from the desk of...

THE LAST TIME I wrote about a dream in my column, I described a run-in I had with Fabulous Moolah. If memory serves, FabMoo, intent on planting a kiss on my lips, had me running for dear life. When I dream about wrestling (which is quite often), I feel like my career is overrunning my life. I once told Stanley Weston, the founder of this magazine, that when I dream about work, I want time-and-a-half pay. He kicked me out of his office.

My wife tells me that no one is interested in hearing about other people's dreams—mine in particular—but based on the feedback I got from reporting Moolah vs. Saks, I'm going to take a chance.

It happened sometime in between February 11 and February 12. The night of the 11th, my wife and I were in a struggle for control of the remote. I'm more than twice her weight, yet somehow she manages to win most of these battles. Usually, we wind up parting company on Monday nights. She may have been a graphic designer for *PWI* in the early-'80s, but any hope I ever had of her appreciating wrestling was killed when I made her lay out a section in one of our magazines, "The Bloodiest Matches In Wrestling History." On this particular night, she wanted me to stay upstairs and watch the Olympic pairs skating with her. That was fine with me. I've been a huge fan of the Olympics since the Cold War and I was particularly looking forward to the hyped showdown between the Russians, Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze, and the Canadians, Jamie Sale and David Pelletier.

The only condition was that during the down time, I'd flip to *Raw*—and she couldn't complain. Agreed.

What a night it turned out to be! Almost simultaneously we were treated to the biggest Olympic ripoff since Roy Jones was fleeced in Korea and the most electrifying breakup since Charles and Diana. Both events were negative by nature, yet compelling in a very odd way. So compelling, in fact, that my mind kept going long after my body had called it a night.

Somehow, in the deepest recesses of my medulla oblongata, I juxtaposed the characters with their proper settings and suddenly—weirdly—Triple-H and Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley were in Salt Lake City ... on skates!

My dream started just as Steph and Triple-H were waiting for their music to queue and begin their routine. They stared into each other's eyes, Stephanie confident that she had won back the love of her man with her concocted pregnancy story, and Hunter knowing the truth and waiting for just the right instant to unload on her.

The music began. The crowd, which knew what Hunter knew, watched excitedly with two thoughts running through their minds: 1) Would Triple-H find it within himself to forgive Stephanie for lying about her pregnancy, and, 2) Would the laws of physics allow Stephanie to remain fully in her costume after performing a triple salchow?

The first moments of the routine were performed to perfection. Lost in the moment, it seemed that Triple-H's competitive instincts had taken hold of him and his anger had subsided. The unsuspecting (and unexpecting) Stephanie threw her deep passions for her partner into her every move, totally captivating the spectators and judges alike. They were on their way to gold.

And then it happened. Triple-H ripped off his shirt, displaying a physique that would forever curtail jokes about the manliness of figure skaters, and skated toward Stephanie. Steph knew her husband's bare torso was not part of the routine, but was hardly rattled. It was Hunter's spontaneity that separated this team from the rest of the pack, and she trusted his instincts implicitly.

She jumped toward her man, who caught her in his mighty grip. Then, summoning all of his strength, he threw sweet Stephanie high in the air, over the head of the French judge and into the third row. Triple-H skated over to his bride, showered her with obscenities, and spit on the French judge for good measure.

The answers to my two questions, by the way, were no and no.

And, no, I would not ask my current boss for time-and-a-half.

Stu Saks
Publisher

Pro Wrestling Illustrated

STANLEY WESTON
Founder

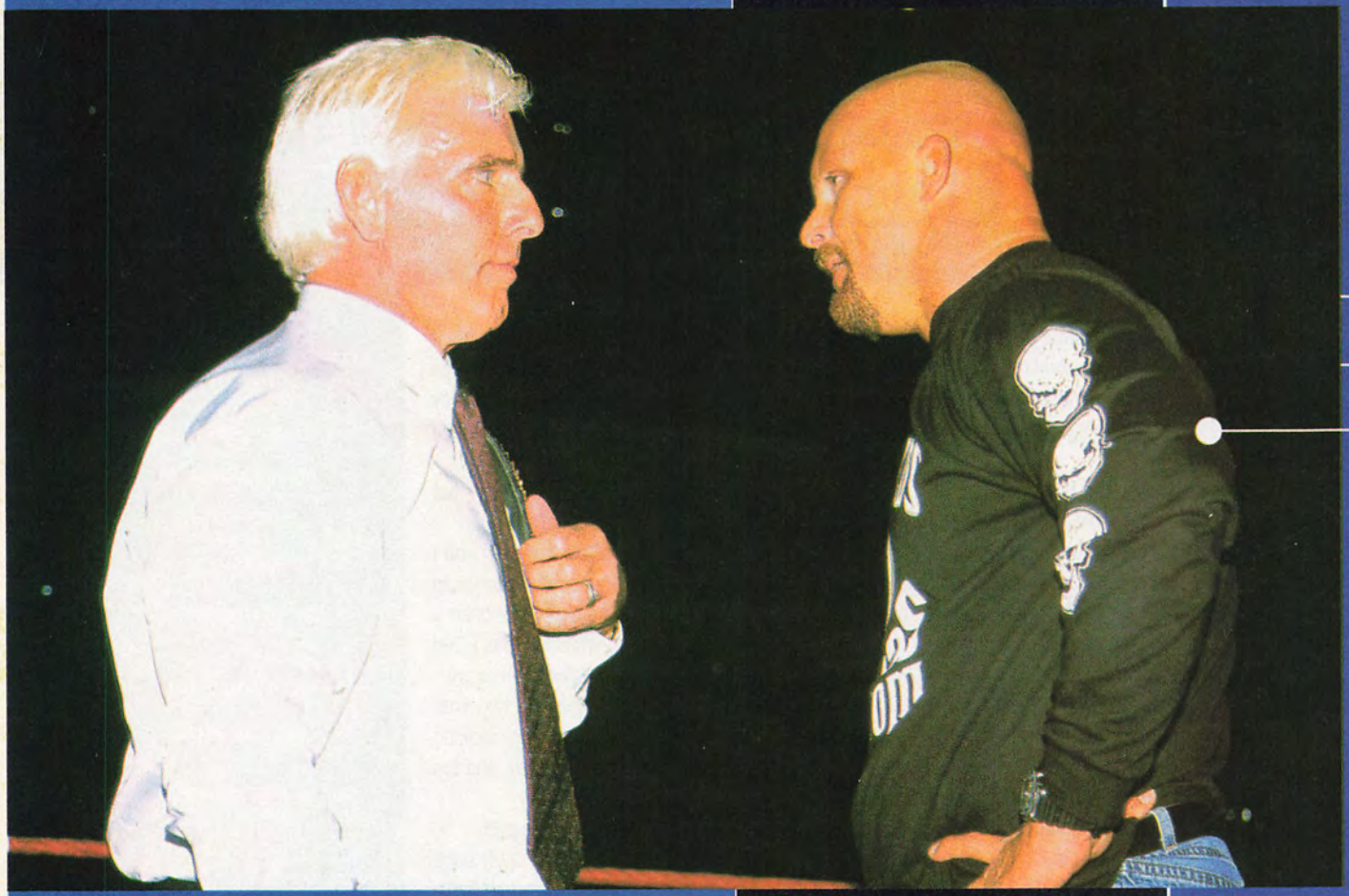
PUBLISHER
Stuart M. Saks
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
David Lenker
MANAGING EDITOR
Brandi Mankiewicz
SENIOR ART DIRECTOR
Walt Schmidt
ART DIRECTORS
Greg Stevens
Joseph Kalman
Natalie Burke
PRODUCTION MANAGER
Bethany Lawler
PRE-PRESS DIRECTOR
Cliff Campo
SENIOR WRITERS
Harry Burkett
Dan Murphy
Will Welsh
Frank Krewda
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Matt Brock
Elizabeth A. Hunter
Mike Spillane
CONTRIBUTING ARTIST
Jason Conlan
ASSISTANT EDITORS
Eric Raskin
Joseph Santoliquito
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Duane Long
Joe Zanolle
George Tahinos
Steve Beyer
Vern Verna
Timothy A. Walker
Mike Lano
James McAfee
Koichi Yoshizawa
Gary Dineen

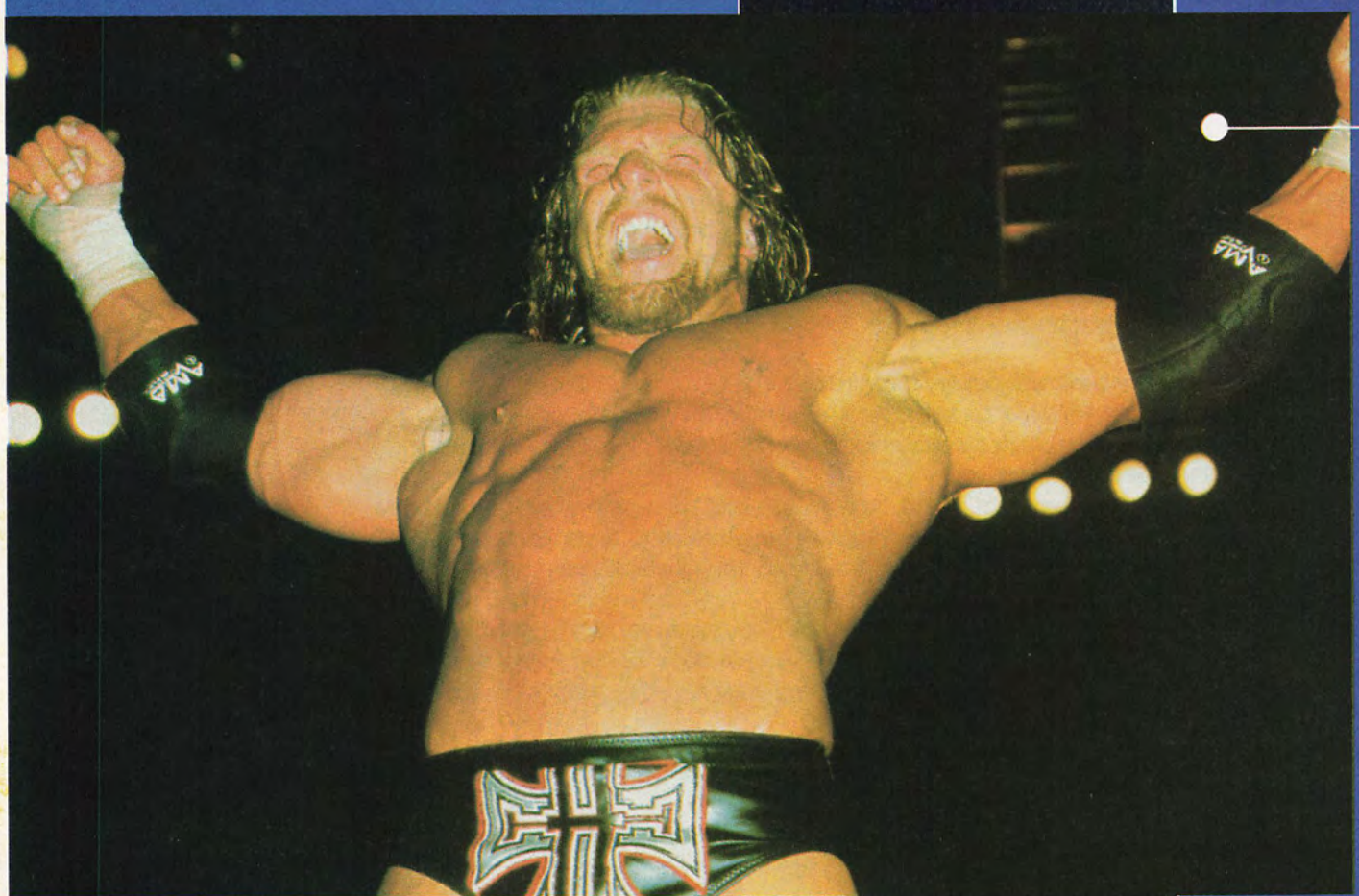
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Kenneth J. Gudaitis
CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
David Tyler
NATIONAL CIRCULATION MANAGERS
Robert Nucci
Rose Ann Adolfi
Dave Hagman
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Vince Bellissima
(215) 643-6385
ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
Dianne Weber
SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43306-8121
(815) 734-1212

Pro Wrestling Illustrated (ISSN: 1043-7576), Vol. 23, No. 6, June 2002, is published monthly by London Publishing Co., 7002 W. Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Periodicals postage paid at Ambler, PA 19002 and additional post offices. Postmaster: Send change of address notices to: Pro Wrestling Illustrated, P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8121. Single copy price $5.95 ($8.95 in Canada, £3.95 in U.K.). Subscription price $65.40 in the U.S. ($75.00 in Canada and remaining countries). Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage.

The entire contents of this magazine are copyright ©2002 London Publishing Co. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES: (215) 643-6385. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable News Inc., 641 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010. U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England.

Printed in U.S.A.





PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

June 2002

contents

features

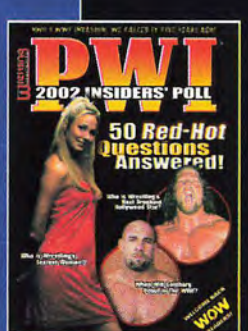
22 **PRESS CONFERENCE: RIC FLAIR**
Why did he buy Shane and Steph's stock in the first place? What impact does he really think the NWO will make in the WWF? What's his take on Vince McMahon's current mindset? He tries to answer these questions and many more in a very revealing interview

26 **HULK HOGAN TOLD US FIVE YEARS AGO THAT THE NWO WOULD TAKE OVER THE WWF ... WHY DIDN'T ANYONE LISTEN?**
We have the evidence. Just look at the quote on the cover of the Spring 1997 issue of Wrestle America. He came right out and said it. It sounded like an idle threat at the time, but it was something he never put out of his head

32 **HEY, STEVE AUSTIN: WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU DONE?**
Or should we ask, what the hell (what) have you (what) done (what)? This one little word has become quite the phenomenon in the WWF. People chant it so much and so loudly that many other WWF stars can barely get their messages across in the ring. It's frustrating

36 **THE 2002 PWI POLL: WRESTLING'S 50 HOTTEST QUESTIONS ANSWERED!**
Pound-for-pound, who is the world's best wrestler? ... Who is wrestling's sexiest woman (and man)? ... Are the NWO guys worth the risk to the WWF? ... Who is wrestling's next breakout Hollywood star? ... Who is the world's most dangerous wrestler? Our insiders take a shot at answering these questions and 44 others

LOOK FOR THE JULY 2002 ISSUE OF
PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED ON SALE APRIL 30, 2002



COVER PHOTOS:
Stacy Keibler by Mark W. Hill
Triple-H by Vern Verna

COVER DESIGN:
Natalie Burke

departments

3 **FROM THE DESK OF ... Stu Saks**
Stephanie and Triple-H on ice

6 **BEFORE THE BELL**
A cartoon called El Macho, "Stupid Files," and much more

12 **RINGSIDE with Will Welsh**
All the latest and hottest news in wrestling can be found here

14 **IN FOCUS by Dave Lenker**
Examining those who are underappreciated and those who are overrated in the WWF

16 **OFF THE TOP ROPE with Brandi Mankiewicz**
Our "Queen" takes time to answer some of her mail

18 **KREW-CUTS by Frank Krewda**
Some things just don't make much sense these days

64 **THE BUSINESS PAGE by Harry Burkett**
Ratings numbers, WWFE stockwatch, and much, much more

67 **THE STEEL CAGE by Liz Hunter**
This isn't the first time a promotion considered splitting in two

70 **WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW by Harry Burkett**
A lot has changed (and stayed the same) in this columnist's first five years with PWI

72 **THE STRAIGHT SHOOTER by Dan Murphy**
The Murph proves he's tough enough to step into the ring

76 **THE WRESTLING ANALYST**
We take a very close look at The Undertaker's strengths and weaknesses

82 **12 QUESTIONS WITH ... MIKE SANDERS**
This former Natural Born Thriller has never been afraid to speak his mind

84 **FOR THE GUYS**
Watch out for Allison Danger, gentleman!

85 **FOR THE LADIES**
Ron Waterman is a guy many ladies would like to get to know

86 **THROUGH THE YEARS: THE RIKISHI FILES**
He was shrinking heads long before he was the butt of so many jokes

88 **THE JAPAN REPORT by Mike Spillane**
The latest from the Land of the Rising Sun

89 **THE MEXICO REPORT by Mike Spillane**
The biggest news from the world of Lucha Libre

92 **ARENA REPORTS**
Key match results from around the world, plus our "Spotlight" card

98 **BETWEEN FALLS**
Catchphrase Craziness; Cravin' More Maven; Rock 'n' Coach Connection

102 **PWI CLASSIC**
We journey back to 1993, to a strange story involving Jerry Lawler and Mr. Perfect

108 **OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS**
The mat sport's most respected rankings

110 **RATINGS ANALYSIS**
We try to make some sense of those respected rankings

112 **DRAWING BLOOD**
The unusual perspective of cartoonist Jason Conlan

114 **HOT SHOT**
Looks like The Hurricane doesn't really have any superpowers

before the bell

Compiled by Will Welsh

(EL) MACHO, MACHO MAN

If wrestling has taught us anything, it's that there are more than a few crazy characters in the world who are willing to throw on tight-fitting Spandex for our pleasure. Big, small, short, tall—wrestlers come in all shapes, sizes, and nationalities—and now they come as cartoon characters via the Internet, too.

Don't believe us? Then go to www.screenblast.com, a popular Sony Entertainment Web portal, and see for yourself. El Macho is waiting patiently to be found.

Who is El Macho? *What* is El Macho? Glad you asked.

The creation of Jorge R. Gutierrez, El Macho, a series of short Flash films, details the rather heroic, yet comical exploits of a wrestler that goes by the same name—and El Macho is one heck of a crime-fighting, alien-repelling, tree-hugging Luchadore!

In Episode One, titled "The Legend Of El Macho," we learn that Macho was abandoned as an infant, left on an orphanage doorstep dressed in only a diaper and Luchadore mask. Macho quickly impressed all the other orphans of Mexopolis, the city in which all of Macho's heroics take place, by disposing of the orphanage's evil bill collector, Mr. Dinero. He then graciously donated all of his earnings from winning the Atomic Battle Royal to the orphanage, rescuing it from its financial troubles.

Whatta guy.

Other episodes of the Netflick reveal even more about the man behind the red and gold mask and Triple-H-sized upper body. Here's a short biography as it's known so far:

a. His size probably intimidated many would-be parents, as Macho was never adopted.

b. Became the International Bone Crunching League champion by utilizing such power moves as the donkey fist and the chimichanga of apocalypse en route.

c. Battled The Chupacabras (goat suckers) after they killed his pet goat, Goaty. (Goaty ate Macho's hated broccoli, as any best friend would do.) Took a pounding from the Chupacabras champion before putting him away with the atomic Aztec deathdrop and becoming the "real champion of the universe."

Those facts cover you up to Episode Four, but with between 26 and 32 episodes in the works, there's no telling what kind of adventures lie ahead for El Macho.

El Macho, like every other Netflick on Screenblast's Web site, is designed for viewing via high-speed Internet connections. But even if you don't have a high-speed connection, we still think watching El Macho is worth suffering through long download times. It's one of the most unusual wrestling-related Internet experiences that we've come across, which is why it receives a rare perfect score: five suplexes out of five.

THE STUPID FILES

Nevada. If you want to legally bet on sports in the ol' U.S. of A., that's where you have to go. In Nevada, you can bet on everything from the Super Bowl to the World Series to the Stanley Cup.

But you can't bet on the WWF. Nevada bookmakers have left that responsibility to the William Hill Agency, a United Kingdom bookmaking giant. Believe it or not, at William Hill, you can place bets on such things as who you think will be the WWF champion at year's end.

We're not kidding. If you're thinking that it's kind of like betting on with whom you think Rachel will end up at the conclusion of the *Friends* season finale, we'd be inclined to agree with you. Asinine? Seems like it—but not because the idea isn't fun. We're sure that there are a lot of wrestling fans who would be willing to bet on match outcomes. Our problem with it is this: Wouldn't it be easy for someone in the know in the WWF to make a quick buck on this?

Think about it. In 2001, the William Hill Agency had set 16-1 odds that Chris Jericho would finish the year as WWF champion. That's right, 16-1 odds. No wonder Y2J managed to gut out all those tough wins.

For 2002, the agency released the following odds on who will be the WWF champion on December 31, 2002:

Steve Austin: 11-4; The Rock: 3-1; Triple-H: 10-3; and Kurt Angle: 5-1. Bill Goldberg, Jericho, Rob Van Dam, and The Undertaker were all listed at 10-1.

Our advice: Do what smart gamblers do at the racetrack. Look for the jockey-sized individuals and bet on whom they bet, because they only make their way out of the stables and bet their hard-earned money if they know something. In wrestling speak, this means get close to somebody in Vince's inner circle and pick his brain.

Pat Patterson anyone?

In today's dwindling wrestling market, a lot of indy federations are having a tough go of it. The ones that do well are the ones that deliver on their promises, whether those promises are implied or explicitly stated. Two of the country's high-profile and most controversial indy promotions, New Jersey's Combat Zone Wrestling and California's Xtreme Pro Wrestling, have something to learn in that regard.

In mid-December, CZW ran a very successful show in Philadelphia's Viking Hall, the old ECW Arena, selling out the building. Because of the standing-room-only atmosphere, the scene was very reminiscent of an ECW show during the promotion's prime—and that was even *before* former ECW promoter Tod Gordon and a cadre of ex-ECW wrestlers (The Blue Meanie, Pit Bull I, and Rocco Rock) invaded and The Sandman, making his CZW debut, fought them off.

Despite a five-hour-long show that came to a conclusion at approximately 2:00 a.m., the crowd popped huge.

One month later, CZW returned to Viking Hall and drew about half of what it did the month before. And there was no follow-up to the ECW invasion angle whatsoever.

Meanwhile, XPW promised its fans something very, very big surprise for its January 12 show. Surely, we figured, it would be something that would have wrestling fans who attended the show talking for days, if not weeks afterward, something huge.

The night's biggest debut was that of former ECW undercard wrestler Chris Hamrick, who is a solid wrestler, but no Hulk Hogan in terms of star power.

Needless to say, the 1,000 or so fans weren't pleased—and that's being kind.

Both CZW and XPW have a chance to become the next ECW. Despite all the criticisms that we've levied at them in recent years, we must compliment them on their ability to generate a buzz and create interest. But in order to reach that next level, they'll have to tone down the hype and deliver on promises. Disappointing fans is the quickest way for a promotion to find itself without many.

WE HEARD THAT!

"[The stinkface] came up two years ago in Mobile, Alabama, when I was wrestling the Big Bossman and he fell in the corner. As I turned around, I heard some man yell out, 'Put your ass in his face.' Meantime, I forgot what spot came next, so I walked over and put my ass in his face. It was the biggest reaction I had gotten, so I said I was going to do it next time. It's been easy since then. I don't think Bossman knew what was coming. He saw my cheeks backing up and had nowhere to go."

—Rikishi, in an interview with wrestlingobserver.com

"I personally believe that everything I've stood for when I got into the ring would be compromised and succumbed to the circus-like atmosphere that's out [in the WWF], and that's putting it mildly. I would be an imbecile if I gave up half my money to work for a company I didn't respect."

—Bill Goldberg, in a story in *The Desert Sun*

"If the WWF were a female college student, they would wear a cute red sweater to a party one night, receive a few compliments on it, then wear the same sweater every night for the next six months."

(Continued on page 10)

VISA MasterCard DISCOVER American Express Card

PHONE: 1-401-946-5720

E-Mail: info@wrestlingsuperstore.com

FAX: 1-401-946-8492

WRESTLINGSUPERSTORE.com
5 Murad St. #2 Cranston, RI 02920

HOURS (EST) Monday-Friday - 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday

WRESTLINGSUPERSTORE.COM
a Figures Inc. Company

www.wrestlingsuperstore.com

Adult-Size Championship Belt Replicas

Stone Cold Steve Austin™ Smoking Skull Championship Belt

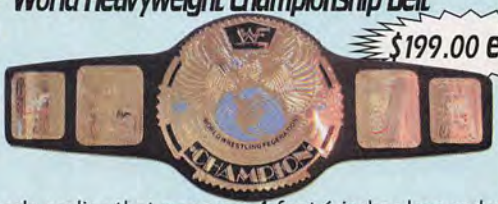
$199.00 each

B2

Exact-scale replica that measures 4 feet 4 inches long and weighs approximately 4 pounds. The strap is made of simulated leather and the metal center medallion measures 9 inches high. Belt and strap are exact thickness and fastens by snaps on each side. Plates are 2mm thick. Features a simulated white snake skin back. Fits up to a 46-inch waist.

World Heavyweight Championship Belt

$199.00 each



B1

Exact-scale replica that measures 4 feet 6 inches long and weighs approximately 4 pounds. The strap is made of simulated leather and the metal center medallion measures 10 inches high. Belt and strap are exact thickness and fastens by snaps on each side. Plates are 2mm thick. Medallions are ornamented by 12 simulated diamonds. Fits up to a 46-inch waist.

Also Available: Limited Edition Deluxe Versions of all 8 Replica Belts with Real Leather Straps.

$349.00 each or (2 for $600.00)

Hardcore Championship Belt

$199.00 each

B6

Tag Team Championship Belt

$199.00 each

B4

Intercontinental Championship Belt

$199.00 each

B3

Women's Championship Belt

$199.00 each

B7

European Championship Belt

$199.00 each

B5

Light Heavyweight Championship Belt

$199.00 each

B8

Kid-Size Championship Belt Replicas

$99.00 each

World Heavyweight BK1 — Smoking Skull BK2 — Hardcore BK6 — Intercontinental BK3 — Tag Team BK4 — Light Heavyweight BK8 — Women's BK7 — European BK5

Exact-scale replica that measures about 3 feet 6 inches long and weighs approximately 2 pounds. The strap is made of simulated leather and the metal center medallion measures 5 inches high. Belt and strap are exact thickness and fastens by snaps on each side. Plates are 2mm thick. Fits up to a 34-inch waist.

Mini Championship Belt Replicas

$30.00 each or (2 for $50.00)

- Made from same material as full-size replica
- Measures 12 inches long
- Center plate measures 3.5 inches high
- Use as a wristband or desktop display

Choose from: 1) Heavyweight; 2) Women's 3) Tag Team; 4) Intercontinental; 5) Hardcore 6) Smoking Skull; 7) European; 8) Light Heavyweight

©2001 World Wrestling Federation Entertainment, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

PAYMENT TERMS:
CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS, ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS, CASH. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO WRESTLING SUPERSTORE.COM
NO ORDER FORM NEEDED, JUST WRITE DOWN ORDER ON A PIECE OF PAPER AND SEND ALONG WITH PAYMENT. 30 DAY RETURN POLICY.

- ORDERS SHIPPED SAME DAY RECEIVED
- INTERNATIONAL ORDERS WELCOMED (ADD $25.00 S/H PER TOTAL ORDER)

United States Shipping:
(Up to $99.99 add $7.00) ($100.00 to $199.99 add $10.00) ($200.00 and over add $12.00)

40-PAGE FULL-COLOR WRESTLING CATALOG: SEND $2.00 FOR A COPY

VISA · MasterCard · DISCOVER · American Express Card

PHONE: 1-401-946-5720

E-Mail: info@wrestlingsuperstore.com

FAX: 1-401- 946-8492

WRESTLINGSUPERSTORE.com
5 Murad St. #2 Cranston, RI 02920

HOURS (EST) Monday-Friday - 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday

WRESTLINGSUPERSTORE.COM
a Figures Inc. Company

www.wrestlingsuperstore.com

LEGENDS OF WRESTLING 6 INCH ACTION FIGURES

$8.00 each or (2 for $15.00)

- Highly detailed with 3 to 6 points of articulation
- Compatible with other 6 inch action figures on the market now
- Limited to only 5,000 and each figure comes mint on card

Choose from Regular Version or Bloody Versions of:

King Kong Bundy	Abdullah The Butcher	Killer Kowalski
Ivan Putski	Tony Atlas	Iron Sheik
Nikolai Volkoff	Greg Valentine	Kamala
Tito Santana	Bob Orton Jr.	Ox Baker
Bruno Sammartino 70's	Captain Lou Albano	Ivan Koloff
Bruno Sammartino 60's	Chief Jay Strongbow	Eddie Gilbert
Original Sheik	Ricky Steamboat	Wahoo McDaniel
Superstar Billy Graham	Baron Von Raschke	Jimmy Valiant

MORE LEGENDS COMING SOON!!!

Jakks Kids Toy Belts $15.00 each

The Rock Belt
Undertaker Belt
Stone Cold Skull Belt
Stone Cold Venom Belt
European Championship
Tag Team Championship
Intercontinental Championship
World Heavyweight Championship

Arn Anderson 4 Ever: A Look Behind The Curtain

A 164 page book written by Arn Andreson. The true story of Arns life and career. $20.00 each or (2 for $35.00)

Mexican Wrestling Masks

These are full head masks. choose from: $30.00 each

Juventud Guerrerra
Rey Mysterio Jr.
Mil Mariscaras
Ultimo Dragon
Lizmark Jr.
Super Calo
Psychosis

Toy Belts

$19.00 each One Size Fits All or both for $25.00

These are belts that are goldtone plastic with a soft belt strap.

World Championship

INTERCONTINENTAL

ECW Figures These are 6 inch action figures. $10.00 each

1st Series
Justin Credible
Sabu
Shane Douglas
Chris Candido

2nd Series
Lance Storm
Buh Buh Ray Dudley
DVon Dudley
Tommy Dreamer
New Jack

3rd Series
Justin Credible
Tommy Dreamr
New Jack

4th Series
Rob Van Dam
Taz
Balls Mahoney
Axl Rotten
Jerry Lynn
Raven

5th Series
Justin Credible
Super Crazy
Sabu
Nova
Little Guido

ECW WRESTLING

Mystery Wrestler

The mystery wrestler comes with a regular body, a muscular body, 11 Legends of Professional Wrestling interchangable wrestler heads, 2 generic wrestler heads & folding chair, referee shirt, event staff jacket, 2 mexican wrestling masks and a championship belt.

$20.00 Entire Deal

Full-Head Masks These are soft vinyl full head masks.

choose from:

Steve Austin	$25.00 each
Kane	$35.00 each
Bret Hart	$5.00 each
Shawn Michaels	$5.00 each
Sycho Sid	$15.00 each
Goldust	$5.00 each
Mankind	$35.00 each
The Rock	$25.00 each
Vince McMahon	$25.00 each
Road Dogg	$25.00 each
Big Show	$35.00 each
X-Pac	$35.00 each
Triple H	$35.00 each
Chris Jericho	$25.00 each
Rikishi	$25.00 each

JAKKS ACTION FIGURES

By Jakks Toys (1996-2000) 6 Inch Action Figures based on some of the most popular Superstars. Most figures have a "Bone Crunching Sound" when posed.

ALL JAKKS FIGURES ARE $15.00 EACH (OR ANY 6 FOR $75.00)

Choose from:

3rd Series
Bret Hart #3 • Sid • British Bulldog
Ahmed Johnson • Mankind

4th Series
Faarooq • Justin Hawk Bradshaw
Vader #2 • Triple H

5th Series
Sycho Sid • Rocky Maivia • Flash Funk
Ken Shamrock • Savio Vega

Shotgun Saturday Night Series 3
Kurgann • Edge • Triple H • Road Dogg
Droz • Stone Cold

7th Series
Venis • Undertaker • Edge • Stone Cold
Dr. Death

Series 8- Team Corporate
Big Boss Man • Michaels • The Rock
Shane McMahon • Kane • Ken Shamrock

Series 9
Big Show • Gangrel • Christian • Bob
Holly • Undertaker • Vince McMahon

Fully Loaded Series 1
Kane • Triple H • Al Snow • Billy Gunn
• Road Dogg • The Rock

Fully Loaded Series 2
Stone Cold • Test • Road Dogg
The Rock • X-Pac • Shane McMahon

Raw Is War
Undertaker • Stone Cold • The Rock
Mankind

Breakdown In Your House
X-Pac • Droz • Stone Cold • Mankind
D'Lo Brown • Goldust

Maximum Sweat Series 1
Undertaker • The Rock • Kane
Stone Cold • Michaels • Triple H

Rulers Of The Ring 2
Rikishi • Big Boss Man • Crash Holly

Monster Ring To Fit Jakks 6-Inch Action Figures $30.00 each

Rulers Of The Ring 3
Perry Saturn • Prince Albert
Steven Richards • Eddie Guerrero
Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley

Rulers Of The Ring 4
Hardcore Holly • William Regal
Justin Credible • Christain
Molly Holy • Shane McMahon

Rebellion 3
Kurt Angle • Undertaker • Triple H
Steve Austin • Jeff Hardy
D-Von Dudley

Rebellion 4
Edge • Lita • X-Pac • Triple H
Billy Gunn • Chris Benoit

Titan Tron Series 8
Rikishi • The Rock • Jeff Hardy
Matt Hardey • Road Dogg
Buh Buh Ray Dudley

Titan Tron Series 9
Rikishi • The Rock • Chyna
Kurt Angle • Triple H
Commissioner Foley

Titan Tron Series 10
Kane • Billy Gunn • Steve Austin
Rikishi • Triple H • Matt Hardy

Titan Tron Series 11
Rikishi • Stephanie • Steve Austin
Kurt Angle • Triple H • Jeff Hardy

$20.00 each (or 4 for $75.00)

Tag Team 2-Figure Packs
New Blackjacks • Headbangers
The Godwinns

2 Tuff Series 2 2-Figure Packs
Mustafa/Brown • Lawler/Christopher
Jackyl/Kurgann

2 Tuff Series 3 2-Figure Packs
Kane/Mankind • Austin/Undertaker
Hawk/Animal

2 Tuff Series 4 2-Figure Packs
The Rock/Mankind • Venis/Gunn
Undertaker/Kane • Bossman/Austin

2 Tuff Series 5 2-Figure Packs
Viscera/Undertaker •
The Rock/Austin • Debra/Jarrett
Billy Gunn/Road Dogg

Call For Other Jakks Figures We Carry Most Jakks Items

T-SHIRTS

Adult T-shirts $20.00 each Sizes Available M, L, XL, XXL

Kids T-shirts..$15.00 each Sizes Available M, L, XL

All T-shirts made from 100% cotton. Most shirts come in adult and kid sizes.

Also Available:

Austin Rattlesnake
Steve Austin Slant
New Age Outlaws
DX (Green Logo)
Raw is Jericho
Undertaker (Rollin' Rollin' Rollin')
The Rock (Bring It)
J.O.B. Squad
Steve Austin Bottom Line
Triple H "the Game"
Cactus Jack "Bang Bang"
Steve Austin 3:16
Hardy Boyz "2 Xtreme"
Triple H "Hunter"
Kane (Out of Fire)
Men of Wrestling
Kane (Bearer of Pain)
Mankind
Hardcore Holly
DX Suck It
Kane (Razing Kane)
Headbangers
Steve Austin Take Down
Steve Austin No Mercy
The Rock Bull Logo
Road Dogg Kickin
The Rock "Just Bring It
Scotty 2 Hotty
Steven Richards
Triple H (Damn Good)
Steve Austin Whoop Ass
Stone Cold University
American Badass (Undertaker)
Boss Man
Val Venis (Hello Ladies)
The Rock, Know Your Role
Big Show
Debra (Puppies)
Godfather
T&A with Trish
Kurt Angle "Its True"
Kurt Angle "USA
Undertaker "Last Ride"
Eddie Guerrero "Latino Heat"
Hardy Boyz & Lita (Team X-Treme)
Stone Cold Half Skull
Steve Austin Blood Rattle Snake
Ken Shamrock
Brothers of Destruction
Edge
Mankind & Socko
Undertaker Ministry
Steve Austin Oversized Skull
Steve Austin 3 SkullS
Edge & Christian
Y2J Circle
The Rock "Poontang Pie
Chris Benoit "Crippler"
Edge & Christian (5 Second Pose)
Undertaker (Deadman Inc.)
Attitude
Austin Smoking Skull
Tori Pretty Face
Tazz "FTW"
Whoop Ass Ale
X-Pac
DX Logo
Mr. Ass
The Rock People's Champ
Tazz 13
Here Kitty Kitty
Too Cool "Graffitti"
Steve Blackman "Pain"
"Save The Hos" Anti-Steven Richards

©2001 World Wrestling Federation Entertainment, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

PAYMENT TERMS:
CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS, ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS, CASH. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO WRESTLING SUPERSTORE.COM
NO ORDER FORM NEEDED, JUST WRITE DOWN ORDER ON A PIECE OF PAPER AND SEND ALONG WITH PAYMENT. 30 DAY RETURN POLICY.

• ORDERS SHIPPED SAME DAY RECEIVED
• INTERNATIONAL ORDERS WELCOMED (ADD $25.00 S/H PER TOTAL ORDER)

United States Shipping:
(Up to $99.99 add $7.00) ($100.00 to $199.99 add $10.00)
($200.00 and over add $12.00)

40-PAGE FULL-COLOR WRESTLING CATALOG: SEND $2.00 FOR A COPY

—ESPN.com columnist Bill Simmons on the WWF's penchant for running successful gimmicks into the ground

"Nothing beats a third-tier wrestler getting summarily disposed in the Rumble in two seconds. You can't put a price on this kind of fun."

—ESPN.com columnist Bill Simmons on the WWF's penchant for running successful gimmicks into the ground

"Most of what I do, I stole from Tully Blanchard."

—Simon Diamond, in an interview with Slam! Wrestling

"I didn't really know anything about how to be a heel when I was in ECW. I didn't know that I wanted [the fans] to chant, 'She's a crack whore' and those sort of chants."

—Lita, during an online Internet chat

"I still don't understand why the worm or the people's elbow are as over as they are, and while I've found Austin's 'Whats' to be funny, I never would've guessed it would have gotten this over."

—Lance Storm, in his weekly commentary on stormwrestling.com

caption me!

Think you're a better writer than the editors here at *PWI?* Here's your chance to prove it, punk! This picture of Kevin Nash as he looked while preparing for a guest spot on the cable-TV show *Swamp Thing* in 1991 needs a short, concise, and downright uproarious caption. If you think you're up to the task, e-mail your zany quips to PWIFocus@aol.com or slap a 34-cent stamp on an envelope and snail-mail it to "Caption Me!" Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Three months from now, we'll share with you the best of the bunch—and the funnier the better.

Steve prepares for his upcoming match by throwing away his sense of humor.

—Robert Payes, Parsippany, NJ

"Everybody sing! You put your left hand in, you take your left hand out, your put your left hand in and you shake it all about …"

—anitagambrell@webtv.net

MARCH'S BEST

"To be the man, you have to beat Steve Blackman. *Whoooooo!"*

—Harold Pawlik, Harry2Scary@webtv.net

"Everybody now … at the Y-M-C-A!"

—stacybentz@sk.sympatico.ca

"Man, Flair makes this strut look so easy."

—timman23@bright.net

"Maybe if I give the impression of moving, people might wake up."

—Mike Matson, matson67@hotmail.com

"Hey, everybody, check out my new dance. I call it the 'Stiff Uncomfortable White Guy.'"

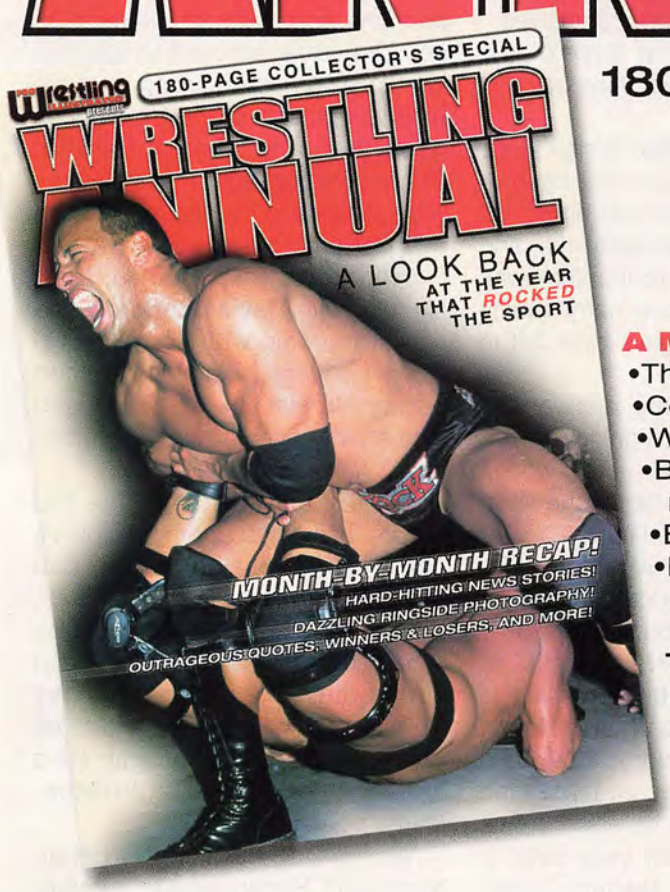
—Michael Donato, Bohemia, NY

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED presents

The publishing event of the year!

WRESTLING ANNUAL™

180 pages! All in *dazzling* color!


180-PAGE COLLECTOR'S SPECIAL
WRESTLING ANNUAL
A LOOK BACK AT THE YEAR THAT ROCKED THE SPORT
MONTH-BY-MONTH RECAP!
HARD-HITTING NEWS STORIES!
DAZZLING RINGSIDE PHOTOGRAPHY!
OUTRAGEOUS QUOTES, WINNERS & LOSERS, AND MORE!

A MONTH-BY-MONTH RECAP OF 2001!

- The key news stories
- Controversial quotes
- Wrestler and match of each month
- Business story and oddball story of each month
- Brilliant action photography
- Plus, the cartoon work of Jason Conlan—and more!

This issue (dated Spring 2002) is available right now, but it is a sure-fire newsstand sellout. We've put aside a limited number of copies for mail order. But act quickly. These won't last long!

Send to: **London Publishing Co., P.O. Box 910, Ft. Washington, PA 19034**

☐ Please rush me my 180-page **PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED WRESTLING ANNUAL (SPRING 2002)!**
I am enclosing $9.95 per copy (plus $2 postage and handling) as payment in full for each issue.

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ **Check or money order** (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ **VISA #** _____

☐ **MasterCard #** _____

Expiration Date: ____/____
MO / YR

Signature: _____

Print your name and address clearly

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

For all orders outside the U.S. and Canada, you must add $1 for every copy to be delivered by surface mail or $2 for every copy to be delivered by airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

5881/01-02

ringside

With Will Welsh

HULK HOGAN, KEVIN NASH, and **Scott Hall** are back in the WWF, and as you've seen, they're creating one heck of a ruckus. Of course, that's what Vince McMahon wanted and expected from them when he signed them to contracts. He didn't sign these men to six-figure deals just so they could come in, pop a quick rating, and quickly fizzle out. McMahon rehired Hogan, Hall, and Nash help make WWF programming must-see TV for all wrestling fans once again.

He signed them with the hope that their return would spark a return to business circa 1998, back to when the sport was booming and fan interest was able to successfully support two nationally promoted companies.

Back to when the **New World Order** was the hottest thing going in the wrestling world.

McMahon's decision to sign these three highly controversial figures, however, is not without its risks. Hall and Nash are in their early-40s, and Hogan is less than 18 months away from turning 50. How many quality matches do these guys have left in their bodies?

Regardless of the answer, all three men are going to have to step up their in-ring work if they hope to share the spotlight with **The Rock, "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin, Triple-H, Chris Jericho,** and **Kurt Angle** without looking like plodding Neanderthals. While it will be refreshing to see Hall, Nash, and Hogan step into a somewhat stale WWF top tier, all three men are going to have to commit to being their very best. If they walk through their matches, it will be apparent.

Will the NWO be good or bad for the WWF? Scott Hall and Hulk Hogan think their presence will boost interest in the Federation. While many wonder what kind of effect they will have on the locker room, they will at least freshen up the WWF's top tier.

But I don't think that will happen.

Why? From top to bottom, the current WWF roster is the hardest-working WWF roster in the Federation's history, and it's easy to argue that the WWF's current top tier (pre-Hall, Nash, and Hogan) is the best top tier ever fielded by the Fed.

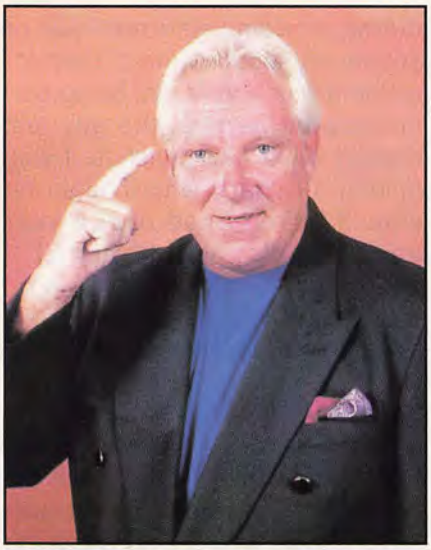
Of course, all of this could turn out to be a moot point. Rock, Austin, Triple-H, Jericho, and Angle have all been known to carry wrestlers who aren't as good as they are to superior matches, so Hogan and company probably will be allowed a small measure of in-ring weakness. The true test of the trio's WWF cohesiveness won't occur in front of TV cameras anyway. No, the true test of the Hall, Nash, and Hogan experiment will occur in the WWF locker room.

In WCW, Hall, Nash, and Hogan earned reputations for watching out for themselves and their main-event positions while burying mid-card talent. They were accused of sabotaging storylines and refusing to make wrestlers outside of the top tier look good. Each member of the trio, though, will contradict that statement with evidence to the contrary. Hogan will point to his feuds with **Bill Goldberg** and **Billy Kidman,** Nash his feud with **Rey Misterio Jr.** and his partnership with **The Natural Born Thrillers,** and Hall his short partnership with **Louie Spicolli,** who died shortly after making the move to WCW from ECW.

Fortunately for them, the trio already has the support of Triple-H, one of the most influential and respected members of the WWF locker room. Surprisingly, Helmsley kept in contact with Hall and Nash during the height of the Monday night wars and was even said to be in favor of bringing in Hogan for a one-shot spectacular at WrestleMania X-Seven.

Whether the signings of Hall, Nash, and Hogan lead to a resurgence in business or a locker room meltdown, it's going to be great fun to watch.

Two legendary stars are battling life-threatening illnesses. **Bobby "The Brain" Heenan** is suffering from throat cancer and is currently undergoing chemotherapy. Former WWF champion **"Superstar" Billy Graham** continues to suffer from liver problems. Most recently, Graham had to be rushed to the hospital because of severe internal bleed-



Bobby "The Brain" Heenan, a man many consider to be the best color commentator and one of the best managers ever, has been diagnosed with throat cancer. Will Welsh joins everyone at *PWI* in wishing him the best as he tries to beat the disease.

ing and is now in need of a liver transplant. Everyone at *PWI* would like to wish both men a speedy recovery.

Kaz Hayashi, whose contract was picked up following the Federation's purchase of WCW last March, has been released by the WWF per his request. Hayashi is expected to return to Japan so that he can spend more time with family and friends. If the WWF does begin pushing the light heavyweight division again (which is reportedly going to happen once the company splits in two), it's possible that the Fed will look to bring Hayashi back in.

Perhaps I was a bit premature in calling the XWF **Jimmy Hart's** XWF in this column a few issues ago. Rumors out of the WWF say that Hogan is trying to get Hart a WWF contract, despite Hart's responsibilities as one of the XWF's key officials ... Independent standouts **Reckless Youth** and **Mike Quackenbush** have opened a wrestling school in Allentown, Pennsylvania ... **Dustin Diamond**, who played **Screech** on the teenage comedy *Saved By The Bell,* is trying his hand at wrestling. We wish him the best of luck in his new profession.

Former NWA President **Howard Brody** has announced his resignation from the organization.

"There comes a time when one must be pensive and introspective and be honest with themselves and others," Brody wrote in a letter to the NWA membership. "I have gone through great personal turmoil since our annual meeting here in Florida, and having examined my options and realized what I need in my life to achieve my goals, I have made the difficult decision to tender my resignation to the NWA effective immediately."

Whether you loved him or hated him, Brody made a difference. The NWA will miss his organizational skills and panache for promoting.

Former WCW World champion **Sting** seems content with his retirement. In an interview on **Ted DiBiase's** Web site, www.milliondollarman.com, Sting had the following to say: "I am in retirement, and I think I'm going to stay retired; it would take an awful lot to get me out of it, that's all."

Sounds like a man who has made up his mind.

Undisputed WWF champion **Chris Jericho** and **Bill Goldberg** had a run-in during a charity hockey game in January. Jericho skated over to the opposing team's bench and began berating the players. Goldberg, who was behind the opposing team's bench standing in as an assistant coach, grabbed Jericho and (in good fun) threw him over the

(Continued on page 80)

Following a brief stay in the Hartland Wrestling Association, a WWF developmental territory, Kaz Hayashi has opted to return to his native Japan. The WWF granted him his release so that he could do so, though he could be invited to return if the Fed ever does give a cruiserweight division a serious push.

in focus

By Dave Lenker

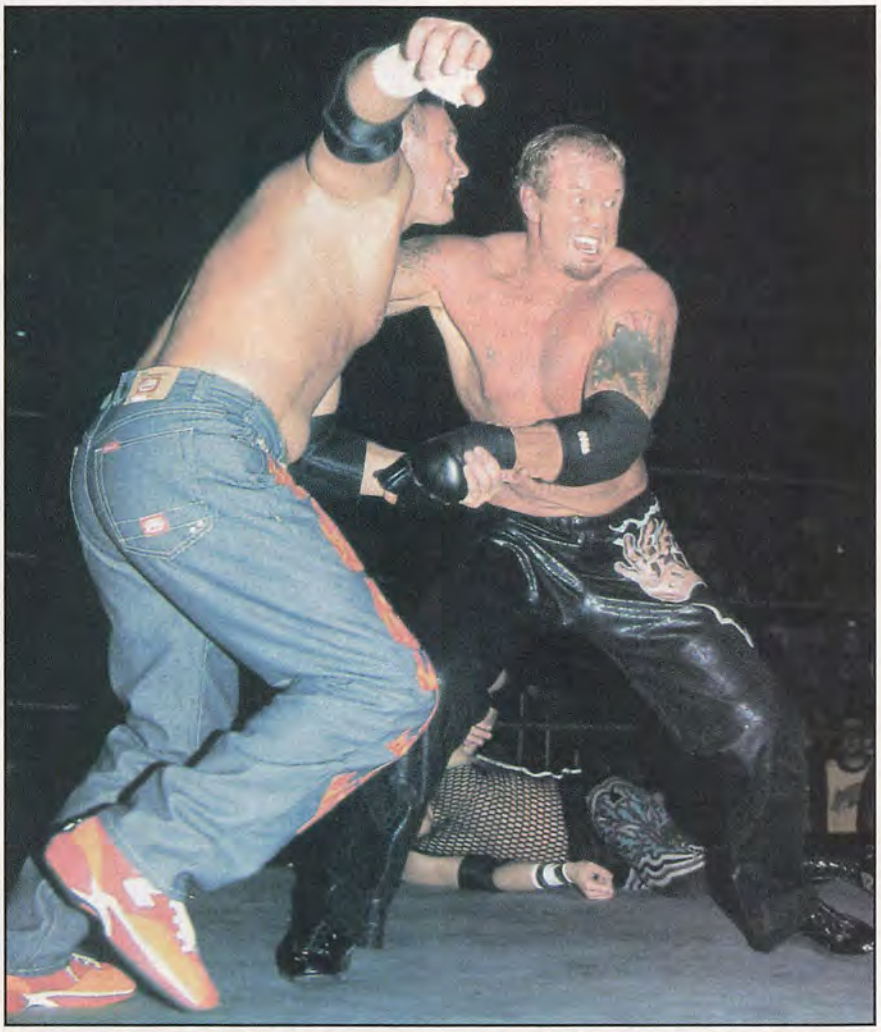
THE OVER/UNDER

A lot of strange thoughts go through my head as I sit down to watch Raw on Monday night. Most are inane enough to remain buried deep inside my brain. Sometimes, however, I find the most basic ideas to be the most profound. It was a week after Ric Flair introduced what I considered the greatest montage video the WWF has ever produced—the one that brilliantly chronicled the company's history on about four minutes worth of tape. I was watching The Rock cut another promo, one that wasn't the least bit newsworthy but was thoroughly entertaining nevertheless, when I realized that we just don't appreciate today's WWF superstars.

It must have been because of vintage images of Bruno Sammartino, Gorilla Monsoon, and Pedro Morales were still in my mind. These guys are the legends of WWF past, the men who built a foundation for the industry we now call sports entertainment long before even Hulk Hogan was relevant. Yet these legends—*none* of them was as versatile, as captivating, or hell, as talented as today's biggest names. So I put together a list of the five most underappreciated WWF stars out there today. Of course there is a flipside to this. One reason we get burned out on these stars is because of all the hype surrounding them—and that hype comes in many forms and from many sources. So to go with the underappreciated, I present the overrated. Just remember, overrated doesn't mean bad. And it's usually not a wrestler's fault that he is overrated.

UNDERAPPRECIATED: THE ROCK. Let's start at the top. What can't this guy do well as a wrestler? Speak in the first person, perhaps? I don't think I've seen an entertainer with more charisma anywhere. How does he get through all those interviews and promos without stumbling at all? He can even sing during a promo and not look or sound ridiculous doing it. And for all the discussion of him being predictable in the ring, the guy just doesn't have bad matches. I was among the many who thought he should have turned heel a year ago. Now I'm glad he didn't. I almost hope *The Scorpion King* tanks at the box office. He'll be less likely to head for Hollywood.

OVERRATED: LANCE STORM. I could have made a case for placing him in either category, but I feel like I'm caught somewhere in between those people who dream about the year he'll wrestle Chris Benoit in the main event of WrestleMania and WWF matchmakers, who think it makes sense to have him humiliated by The Godfather. Okay, maybe I



Until recently, it looked like the career of DDP (whipping Scotty Too Hotty into the ropes) was all but dead. But he won the European title in January and is still getting good reactions from fans. Dave Lenker thinks he still has plenty to offer in the WWF.

should call Storm, who I still consider a fine overall talent, underappreciated by the WWF and overrated by a segment of overbearing fans.

UNDERAPPRECIATED: DALLAS PAGE. Something's gone terribly wrong when a guy with Page's talent and commitment doesn't just get picked up by the WWF in the WCW sale, but works out a buyout on his guaranteed Time Warner deal just so he can get a shot in the big leagues, only to become *persona non grata* within a few months. Fortunately, somebody in the WWF was wise enough to give him another chance. Notice that those D-D-P chants never disappeared completely, despite his burial on TV. Maybe four-time ... four-time ... four-time world champ is out of his reach, but the European title should be a good start to a final good run for Page.

OVERRATED: WILLIAM REGAL. Great facial expressions, solid interview skills, excellent commissioner. But he does need to pick up the pace in the ring. I remember reading a comment from a fan who was personally insulted that a man of his talent was the first inductee into the infamous Vince McMahon Kiss My Ass club. I suppose it would have been okay if Billy Gunn got that role.That was when I knew he was moving into overrated territory.

UNDERAPPRECIATED: BOOKER T. People used to call Ronald Reagan the Teflon President because nothing potentially damaging to his reputation or presidency stuck to him. Booker is looking like a Teflon sports entertainer. He was made to look silly against The Rock, pummeled up and down the aisles of a supermarket by Steve Austin, can't buy a significant win, and yet he's still *this* close to crossing over into the WWF's top tier. Someone push him over the line.

OVERRATED: TRIPLE-H. Okay, maybe just overhyped. I thought the night of his return was handled very well by the WWF, but he seemed to sputter a bit in subsequent weeks. I guess all of our expectations for him were absurdly high. It'll take him a while to get back into Match of the Year ring shape, but after suffering such a horrific injury, he's no guarantee to be the same versatile performer he was throughout 2000. It is nice to see he's retained his dry sense of humor, though. His complaint to Stephanie about everyone in her family insisting on setting *all* personal issues on national TV was an early candidate for line of the year.

UNDERAPPRECIATED: STEPHANIE McMAHON. Okay, go ahead and hurl those insults my way. As long as she limits her TV time, I think she's very effective. Sure, she's overbearing, she's annoying, she's grating, and everything she does and says is over the top. In her case, I think those are all endearing qualities.

OVERRATED: TRISH STRATUS. This is not at all her fault, but she's stuck between sex symbol status and legitimate female competitor status. It might have been a mistake to push her as a wrestler. She's working so hard and improving very quickly, but what does improving in a division that people don't take seriously get you? Who was the most effective women's champion of the last four years? Probably the least skilled wrestler, Stephanie, just because everyone wanted so badly to see "The Princess" get hers. How many people watch WWF women's matches for the athleticism?

UNDERAPPRECIATED: CHRIS JERICHO. I was as skeptical as anyone when he first hoisted those two world championship belts over his head at Vengeance. Two months into his reign as undisputed champion, I wasn't doubting his worth as champion, but still there were plenty of people insisting he had to prove himself to be top tier-worthy. His matches are consistently very good to excellent, he's cocky in a not-so-juvenile way, and he doesn't rely on silly jokes anymore. More than good enough for me.

OVERRATED: EDGE. The next Shawn Michaels has been the next Tito Santana so far, which is to say he's been good, but not worthy of his own chapter in *The Complete History Of The WWF* just yet. Here's a guy who just hasn't had the opponents to become the breakout star the WWF still wants him to be. We're as guilty as anyone in overhyping Edge. We expected too much too soon. Not to worry, because I don't think he'll be overrated for long.

(Have a comment or question about "In Focus" or anything else you see in ***PWI?*** *You can contact Dave Lenker via e-mail at PWIFocus@aol.com.)* □

Trish Stratus has proven that she can be more than just eye candy. She's become a very capable wrestler in a relatively short time. But is it possible that this is a bad thing?

off the top rope

By Brandi Mankiewicz

If you wish to contribute to Brandi's mailbag, send your letters to:
TOP ROPE Box 1148 Ft. Washington, PA 19034
Or send e-mail to: **offthetoprope@yahoo.com**

(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Brandi Mankiewicz herself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

I'M GLAD THAT we're finally into a new year. I couldn't wait for last year to be over. There was too much bad—and not in a good way by my warped standards. Now that we've survived so much of the crap, I am hopeful that what's of 2002 will be filled with wickedly good stuff.

We might already be starting on a good (or is that bad?) note. The NWO has come back. While I admit that I do get a tingle, I also get a sneaking suspicion that Scott Hall, Kevin Nash, and Hulk Hogan are going to be nothing better than the sophomoric freaks who fed off the crowds' giggles in WCW. Will they be the terrors that we all knew and loved during the summer of 1996? Or will they succumb to their egotistical need to get over with the fans? And let's not even bring the age factor into this equation. My only suggestion to Kevin Nash is that he gets a healthy dose of Just For Men before he even comes near a WWF ring. Otherwise, he'll look like Test's father.

The moral of this immoral story is that being a heel in real life doesn't always translate to being a heel in the ring. Just remember, I will always be here, ready to fulfill any of your depraved needs. I am your evil champion.

Dear Ms. Mankiewicz,

I read your column in the February 2002 issue of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED. I admit I was never much of a Von Erich fan, but Gino Hernandez? I did see him once in a tag team match with Chris Adams. I have to admit he seemed to have a good awareness of the ring. I guess it doesn't sit well with me … not so much his tactics, but rather his life, or should I say how he died? I realize that sometimes life isn't fair. Sometimes people die due to accidents (Adrian Adonis, Hercules Cortez, and Junkyard Dog, for example), while some die from illness (Jay Youngblood, Yokozuna, and one of your predecessors, Dan Shocket), but I can't really understand idolizing a wrestling star who took his own life (Mike and/or Kerry Von Erich or The Renegade) or who overdosed on drugs (Mr. Hernandez).

To put it in perspective, Chris Adams, his former tag team partner, held the Texas World Class heavyweight title more times than Hernandez (five to two). If you believe Mick Foley, Adams may have discovered Steve Austin and was able to wrestle for some time in the American Wrestling Federation and WCW before both of those promotions folded. Not bad for a man in his mid-40s. Hernandez obviously couldn't do that; drug abuse is the first step to destruction of a wrestling career and a life. Ask Art Barr.

I am 32 years old. Granted, I am not and will never be the wrestler that Hernandez was. However, I do okay as a long-distance runner. I even completed the Big Sur Marathon (the ninth-toughest marathon in the world) in April 1996. Even so, I can't take Hernandez as being that good. Hell, I don't even listen to Nirvana or any comments about how good Kurt Cobain was. (Personally, I saw him as an accident waiting to happen.) Good athletes don't let themselves go to pot … or cocaine, for that matter.

Think about it. Think about how lucky you are. Think about how privileged you are to be our "monarch." Just remember, what happened to Gino could happen to you.

JONATHAN M. GOLDSTEIN
San Jose, CA

Hulk Hogan flexes his 24-inch pythons for a kid with a mullet. Should the little mullethead stop worshipping the "Hulkster" just because Hogan did some things he's not particularly proud of in the past? I don't think so; people love him in spite of his personal demons.

Dear Mr. Goldstein,

Nice of you to spout off your own accomplishments—which no one cares about—while trying to berate me. I pay homage to Gino Hernandez because he was a genius as a heel. He was the first truly charismatic wrestler who drew me to this sport. Sure, he died from a drug overdose, but he wasn't hurting anyone other than himself. I find it interesting that you use Chris Adams as a "good" example, yet he was charged with manslaughter in connection with the death of his girlfriend just months before he was shot to death—which was dismissed as self-defense on the part of the guy who killed him.

You know nothing about me personally, and to assume that I have the same lifestyle as Gino just because he was my favorite wrestler is wrong. If your theory about me is correct, is it acceptable for me to write off every Hulk Hogan fan as a steroid abuser? Remember, he reluctantly admitted that at one time, he needed help to get those 24-inch pythons. As far as music goes, I have most of Nirvana's CDs, so does that mean I'm going to shoot myself? I also like Keith Whitley, so will I drink myself to death as well? To that, I say, go listen to Jefferson Airplane's "White Rabbit," lick a psychedelic stamp, and read Grace Slick's autobiography.

Hello Brandi,

I am Tom from Virginia, and I wrote to you before about how much I enjoyed your work on the "*PWI* 500." Well, Ms. "B," I don't know if you know about a new show on Comedy Central called *Beat The Geeks*. The idea of the game is to out-trivia the experts in their chosen field—TV, music, movies, etc. Well, they have what's called a "guest geek" who shows up as an expert on a different subject, such as *South Park*, horror, comics and—if you can believe it—the *Friends* show. Well, I wrote to them about having a pro wrestling guest on. Well, the reason I am writing to you is that after years of reading your column and seeing the answers to some of the questions you are given, I can tell that you would make a better expert than I, so if you would like to contact them through my mail, I would be happy to step down. I believe you would make quite a showing there.

TOM STRICKLAND MM2
strickla@wasp.navy.mil

Hello Tom from Virginia,

Well, well, well, you are certainly a scary guy, aren't you? What makes you think I'd want to go on TV and "out-trivia" a bunch of losers who actually watch a show called *Beat The Geeks?* While I'm sure the show would love to have an intelligent, gorgeous woman who has actually gone on a date with a man in this century, I'll have to pass. I suggest contacting Liz Hunter. She has nothing better to do with her boring life than spend it with a bunch of geeks. Hey, maybe she'll actually get a date out of it.

Hey, Chris Jericho wins the WWF and WCW world titles and now he's clutching his back in pain. Yep, he really is turning into Yawn Michaels! Now, if he'd just lose his smile ...

Letter of the month (taken verbatim from the actual letter to share my torture with you all):

Watching wwf raw one Friday evening here in England it occured to me that something had changed about Chris Jericho . Not that he was now the WWF champion . Not because he was now a heel. No, what occured to me was that he had put his hair in a ponytail ,was looking at himself in the mirror passionately admiring his good lucks , and had generally gained an ego the size of madison square garden. Yes folks , we are watching Chris Jericho turn into the heartbreak kid himself, Shawn Michaels.All he needs are a pair of trousers exposing his legs and we have the finished article.

Jericho is a talent , we cannot deny that , but surely he is talented enough to invent a persona that does not unashamedly copy a former wwf champion. Nonetheless it is refreshing to see a wwf champion that does not spray beer all over the ring or constantly ask if we can smell what he is cooking.

So come on Jericho , surely originality is still a major factor seperating all time greats from two a penny midcarders of the mat world .

PAUL SHEEHAN
Coventry , England

Dear Paul,

If Chris Jericho is, indeed, becoming Shawn Michaels, then we can only hope that he, too, will take a trip to Syracuse, New York, soon and find himself outside of a nightclub with a mob of angry men. I'd pay money to start, *er,* see that. □

krew cuts

By Frank Krewda

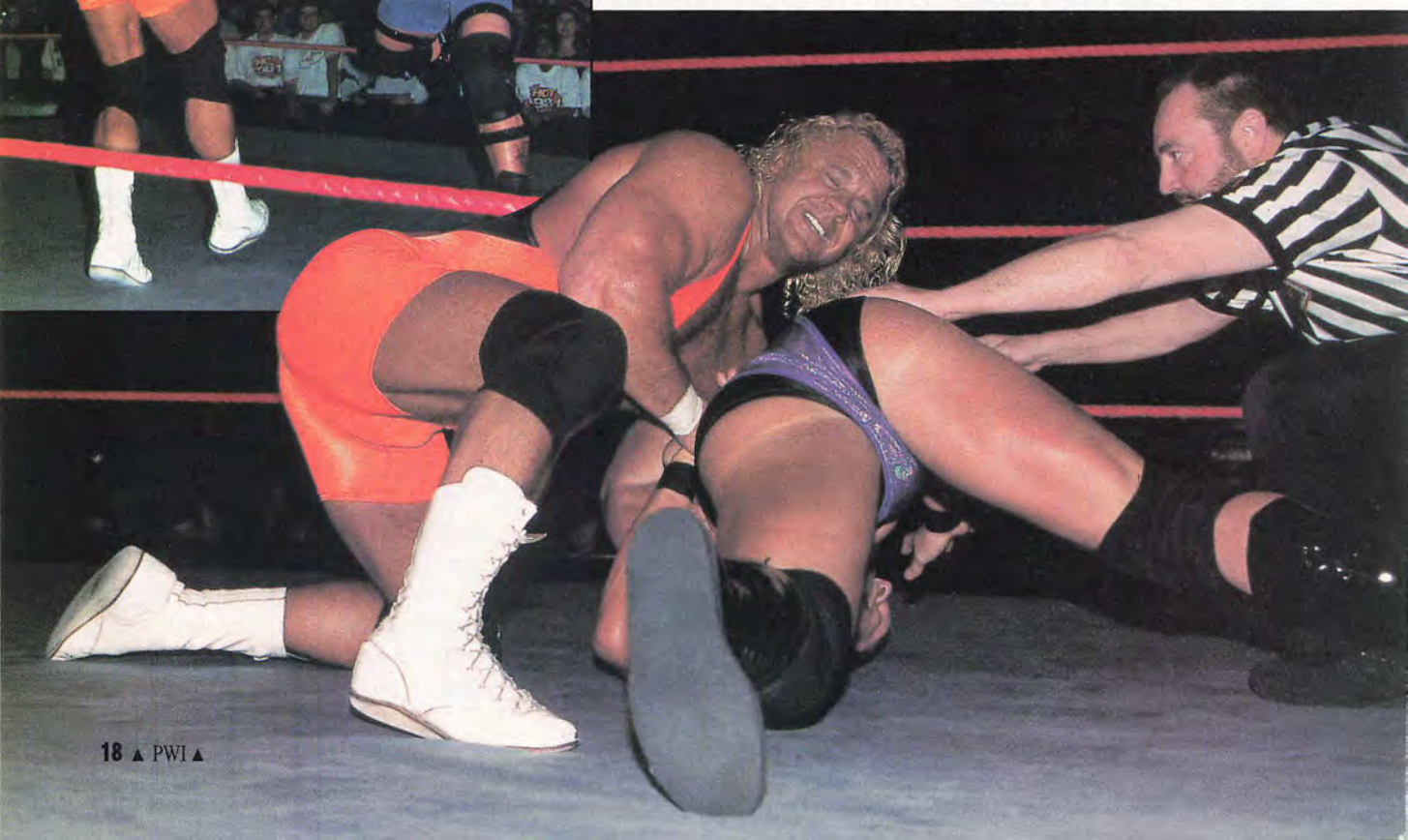
Logic please. Here's one of those wrestling scenarios that makes me scratch my head. On January 28, WWF Intercontinental champion William Regal was disqualified for hitting his opponent, Rob Van Dam, with a blatant low blow in the opening match on *Raw*. Approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes later, "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin delivered basically the same shot to Kurt Angle, enabling "The Rattlesnake" to set up the Stone-Cold stunner and score the pin.

Let's see: Regal + low blow = DQ. However, Austin + low blow = WWF World title match with Chris Jericho at No Way Out. No wonder I was never very good at math ... Here's another WWF venture that made no sense to me: bringing back "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig and Val Venis only to have them buried by Austin (on their first night on *Raw)* in one of the Fed's most meaningless segments of the past five years.

For those of you who don't remember, on the January 21 episode of *Raw,* the WWF first teased a rumble between Hennig and Austin. Of course, nobody cared much for Hennig, who, incidentally, made poor use of his face time by whiffing on that trademark gum-slapping maneuver he does. So naturally the WWF has him square off with the popular Val Venis, who was given extra time to reacquaint the fans with his roguish intro.

The fans, as expected, got summarily jacked for that. They were even more pumped for a Val-Austin showdown when Venis called "Stone-Cold" out and got right in his face. It amounted to one of the more intriguing moments on the show. Yet a potentially exciting feud was short-circuited when Austin quickly laid out Hennig with a wicked chair shot and Venis with a Stone-Cold stunner before reciting the old *Beverly Hillbillies* theme song (complete with a lot of very

The January 21 match between Curt Hennig and Val Venis (below) wasn't going over well with WWF fans ... but then Steve Austin arrived. His chair shot to Hennig's head (left) and the subsequent stunner delivered to Venis were well-received, but Frank Krewda hopes those acts didn't kill any chance both Venis and Hennig have of getting over as key players in the WWF.

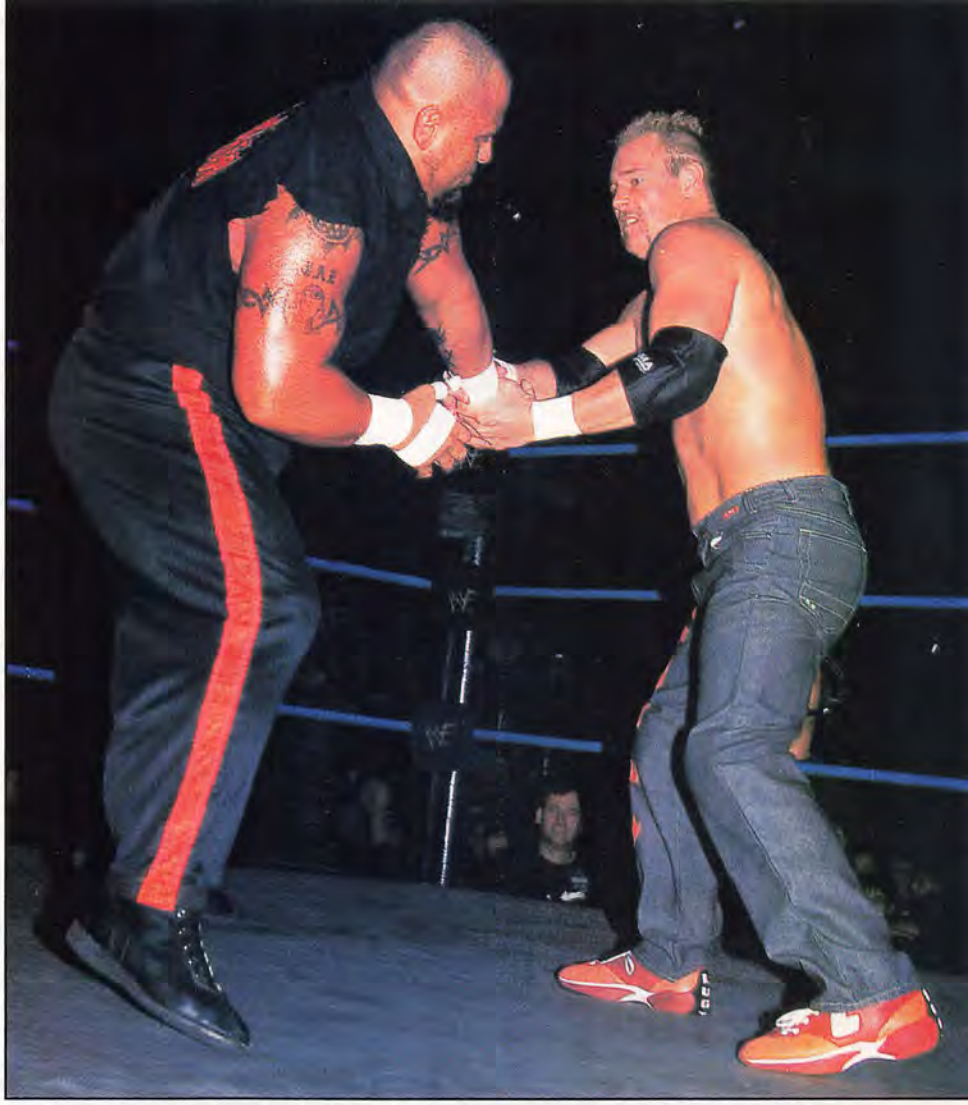


loud "What?!" chants from the crowd thrown in after just about every line). I can only hope both Hennig and Venis are given a fair opportunity to recover from their forgettable reintroductions to WWF TV. Both look like they could still have a lot to offer to the company.

Here and there. Thanks to the recession, finding a job in today's market is one tough proposition no matter which field field you're in. But here's a gig I'd think twice about before taking: WWF announcer. First, good ol' Jim Ross is forced to kiss Vince McMahon's bare ass on national TV—in his home state of Oklahoma, no less—then Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley douses Lilian Garcia with a cup of hot coffee for no apparent reason. In a somewhat less humiliating, but no less hilarious encounter, The Rock forces Jonathan Coachman to dance the Charleston—fittingly in North Charleston, South Carolina. And, of course, there's Michael Cole, who is bullied, ridiculed, and generally mistreated by someone on the WWF staff on almost a weekly basis. (How would you like to have Booker T puke on you?)

Sometimes it seems Jerry "The King" Lawler is the only talking head beyond reproach. But then again, he was forced to beg for his job after walking out in support of his fired wife, Stacy "The Kat" Carter, who, of course, turned out to be much less loyal than he was.

Getting back to The Rock, he seems to be regaining that natural humor he had before he turned Hollywood on us. By the way, he was right on when he took Triple-H to task for being so angry and for having that nasty scowl on his face all the time. If I were in Hunter's boots, I'd be grinning all day every day. After all, how many people can manipulate their bosses into giving them what they want for three years running, then miss eight months on the job and return to their previous place in the company hierarchy? Not too many.

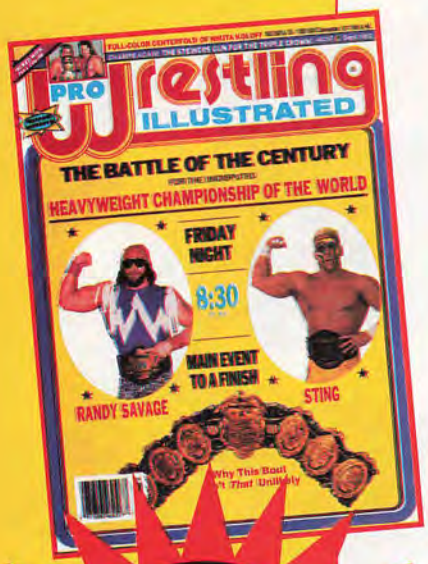


So far, Tazz (shown against Scotty Too Hotty) is having a pretty good 2002, which is a big step up from the lousy 2001 he had in the WWF. Though Krewda appreciates the fact that Tazz is finally getting a chance to shine, he wishes he could have his old entrance music back.

The WWF video clip introduced by Ric Flair on January 28 was the best package in company history, which is saying a lot. The production was exquisite—even with Kid Rock's accompaniment. I'd give it two thumbs up for nostalgia value alone. But I was a bit perplexed as to why the shots featuring Scott Hall, Kevin Nash, and Eric Bischoff were included and not explained by anyone. Could be a case of foreshadowing.

I wonder whom Kane ticked off backstage at the Rumble. After the PPV, he was saddled with The Big Show, although he did dominate that mini-feud. He was even slapped around by Billy and Chucky on one episode of *Raw*. If that's not punishment, I don't know what is.

As many of you probably know by now, I've been hypercritical of the WWF for what I perceived to be its gross mistreatment of Tazz, so it's nice to see him enjoying a run as a World tag team champion with little Spike Dudley. Everyone seems to like this underdog team, and they've pulled off some impressive wins. But why the need for the WWF to go and change his entrance music? Regardless of how you feel about the color orange—or even Tazz himself, for that matter—you have to admit he has one cool intro. Well, he *had* one cool intro. It was the pounding rhythm of his music that made it work so well. It was loud and it was very distinct. Now his music is as generic as anyone else's. □

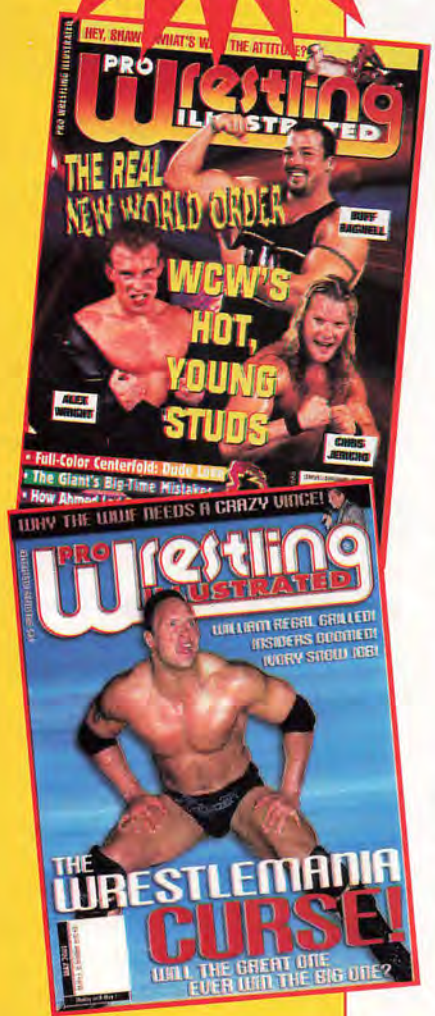


BACK ISSUES OF PRO Wrestling® ILLUSTRATED

ARE GOING FAST!

PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY!

only $5 each



April 1985: Jimmy Snuka: "I Want Piper!"—Even If It Kills The Tonga Kid. Centerfold: Ronnie Garvin. Plus: Flair-Rhodes, Terry Gordy, Jim Garvin, Road Warriors.

June 1985: Super Dream Contest: Play Dusty Rhodes' Trivia Game And Win His Boots! Centerfold: Barry Windham. Plus: Flair-Kerry, Fabulous Ones-Road Warriors, Hogan-Volkoff, Magnum T.A.

January 1990: Warrior's Next Victim: Hulk Hogan? Centerfold: Sid Vicious. Plus: Kerry Von Erich, Jim Ross, Midnight Express.

February 1990: Luger's Holiday Gift For Flair: Has The "Total Package" Wrapped Up The NWA Title? Centerfold: Bret Hart. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Woman, Hennig-Beefcake, Toni Adams.

May 1990: Hulk Hogan: Primed And Ready For WrestleMania VI. Centerfold: Great Muta. Plus: Piper-Rude, Eric Embry, Rock 'n' Rolls, Sid Vicious, pain.

July 1990: The Maturing Of Lex Luger: The "Total Package" Becomes The People's Choice. Centerfold: Rick Martel. Plus: Skyscrapers, Bobby Heenan, Mr. Saito, referees.

September 1990: The Hulkster's Wrath: 7,000 Miles To Violent Redemption. Centerfold: The Steiners. Plus: Jeff Jarrett, Sting, Destruction Crew, Four Horsemen, Curt Hennig.

October 1990: Sting's Painful Lesson: You'll Have No Friends At The Top. Centerfold: Brutus Beefcake. Plus: Orndorff-Blanchard, Tugboat, Teddy Long, Ultimate Warrior, Road Warriors.

February 1991: WrestleMania VII Contest. Centerfold: 1991 calendar. Plus: Sid Vicious, DiBiase-Rhodes, Scott Steiner, Power & Glory, Terry Funk.

April 1991: Sgt. Slaughter Guilty Of Treason! Centerfold: Tom Zenk. Plus: Sting, Magnum T.A., Jesse Ventura, Lawler-Gilbert, Hogan & Warrior.

June 1991: Hulk Hogan: America's Hero. Centerfold: Hacksaw Duggan. Plus: Cactus Jack, Ric Flair, Nasty Boys, Steiners, Simmons-Reed.

July 1991: The War Is Over! Hulk Hogan Liberates The WWF Belt From Sgt. Slaughter! Centerfold: Brian Pillman. Plus: Horsemen, Lex Luger, Eric Embry, Demolition.

August 1991 (Special Issue): Supercards '91. Centerfold: Hulk Hogan. Plus: WrestleMania VII, WCW-New Japan, Ultimate Warrior, Owen Hart, Koloff-Luger.

October 1991: Sid Justice: The Second Coming Of Hulk Hogan. Centerfold: Lex Luger. Plus: Hogan-Slaughter, Terrence Taylor, Barry Windham, Williams-Bigelow.

November 1991: Your Wedding Gift For Savage & Elizabeth: Help Lift The "Macho Man's" Suspension! Centerfold: Bobby Eaton. Plus: Tito Santana, Bushwhackers, Jushin Liger, Brian Pillman.

February 1992: Has Hulk Hogan Had Enough? Centerfold: 1992 calendar. Plus: Sting, Justice-Roberts, hot prospects, Eddie Gilbert.

May 1992: Revitalized In Tokyo: Hulk Hogan Is Super-Psyched For WrestleMania VII! Centerfold: Rick Rude. Plus: Sting & Muta-Steiners, Jarrett & Fuller, Lightning Kid, Randy Savage, intimidation.

June 1992: Exclusive *PWI* Interview: Roddy Piper Speaks Out! Centerfold: Dustin Rhodes. Plus: Dangerously-Sting, Abdullah-Cactus, Sid Justice, Randy Savage.

July 1992: The Best Of The Best—The Masters Of Their Craft. Centerfold: Randy Savage. Plus: Liger-Pillman, Jim Neidhart, U.S.-Japan, Ric Flair.

September 1992: Savage vs. Sting: Why It Isn't That Unlikely. Centerfold: Nikita Koloff. Plus: Steiners, Barry Windham, Sid Justice, Hodge & Weston, Shawn Michaels.

October 1992: The Hatred Still Runs Deep: Ultimate Warrior vs. Randy Savage—They'll Settle Up At SummerSlam! Centerfold: Cactus Jack. Plus: Steve Williams, Tom Zenk, WWF title controversy, fire match, Eric Embry.

November 1992: The British Bulldog: Hounding The Hitman. Centerfold: Ultimate Warrior. Plus: Honky Tonk Man, Steiners, Undertaker, Madusa, perfect wrestler.

February 1993: No One Can Cut Down Razor Ramon. Centerfold: Curt Hennig. Plus: Jake Roberts, Pillman-Dustin, Ric Flair-Road Warriors, Rick Rude, Snuka-Muraco.

May 1993: WrestleMania Without Hulk Hogan? Centerfold: The Undertaker. Plus: Ron Simmons, Cactus Jack, Madusa-Sherri, WCW-New Japan, Ultimate Warrior.

April 1996: WCW World Title Turmoil. Centerfold: The Kid. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Ahmed Johnson, Bob Armstrong, Michaels-Bret, Public Enemy.

May 1996: Un-Natural! The WWF Has Finally Gone Too Far! Centerfold: Public Enemy. Plus: Jeff Jarrett, Dreamer-Raven, Dan Severn, Ric Flair, Giant.

August 1996: Shawn Michaels: Finally—A World Champion. Centerfold: Sunny. Plus: 1-2-3 Kid, Sting-Flair, Sandman-Missy, Steve Austin, Jimmy Hart, WrestleMania XII.

October 1996: Peaking Too Soon: Will The Giant Be Ruined By His Own Success? Centerfold: Goldust. Plus: Big Van Vader, Ric Flair, Bulldog, Lex Luger.

Winter 1996 (Special Issue): *PWI* 500. Centerfold: Shawn Michaels.

February 1997: Mr. Perfect: "Shawn Michaels Stole My Life." Centerfold: "Psycho" Sid. Plus: Kroffat & Furnas, Vince McMahon, Randy Savage, New Razor & New Diesel.

May 1997: March Madness—Bret vs. Shawn. Centerfold: Chris Benoit & Woman. Plus: Goldust, Giant, Akira Hokuto, Roddy Piper.

August 1997 (Special Issue): Supercards '97. Centerfold: NWO. Plus: WrestleMania XIII, Uncensored III, Barely Legal, Public Enemy, Kimberly.

Holiday 1997: *PWI* 500. Centerfold: Dean Malenko.

February 1998: Sting vs. Hogan—The Match Of The Century! Centerfold: Hogan vs. Sting fight poster. Plus: 16-page Starrcade preview, Perry Saturn, Dude Love.

March 1998 (Special Issue): 1997—The Year In Wrestling. 1997 In Review, Achievement '97 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 1998.

May 1998: Starrcade Scandal! We Hate To Say It ... But Give The Belt Back To Hogan: Centerfold: Ric Flair. Plus: Mero & Sable, Taz, Taka Michinoku.

June 1998 (Special Issue): The 1998 PWI Poll. Centerfold: Steve Austin. Plus: Sabu, Lex Luger, Sting, Rocky Maivia, Bill Goldberg.

July 1998: WWF vs. WCW: Which Is Better? Centerfold: Rocky Maivia. Plus: Benoit, Bill Goldberg, Ahmed Johnson.

October 1998: Bret Screws Bret, Part II. Centerfold: Hunter Hearst Helmsley. Plus: Jim Ross, Marcus Bagwell, WWF controversy, FBI.

November 1998: Vince Mc(Mad)Man! He Crossed The Bottom Line ... Now He'll Pay! Centerfold: Kevin Nash. Plus: Sting, Bret Hart, Taz-Douglas, New Age Outlaws.

December 1998: Gold Rush! Get Ready For The Most Awesome WCW Title Reign Ever! Centerfold: Undertaker. Plus: The Giant, Vader, Guerreros, Ken Shamrock.

Holiday 1998 (100-Page Special Issue): *PWI* 500. Eighth Annual Special.

January 1999: No Evil! Can Today's Fans Accept The Warrior's Creed? Centerfold: Chyna. Plus: Sting, Bill Goldberg, Summerslam.

March 1999 (100-Page Special Issue): 1998—The Year In Wrestling. 1998 In Review, Achievement '98 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 1999.

April 1999: The Crock! The Title Change That Screwed The World! Centerfold: Chris Jericho. Plus: Bill Goldberg, Tommy Dreamer, Booker T, more Unofficial/Officials.

May 1999: Who Holds The Key To WrestleMania XV? Centerfold: Konnan. Plus: Mark Henry, Sting-Nash, Bill Alfonso, Brian Hildebrand.

June 1999: (100-Page Special Issue): The 1999 *PWI* Poll. Plus: Mankind, Flair & Turner, VMac, Steiners, New Japan-UFO.

July 1999: Warning! This Team Will Self-Destruct In 15 Seconds! Centerfold: X-Pac. Plus: New Jack-Dudleys, Jesse James, Venis & Godfather, Sting-Bischoff-Flair.

August 1999: (100-Page Special Issue): Supercards '99: WWF WrestleMania, WCW Uncensored, ECW Living Dangerously. Plus: Super 8, Bam Bam Bigelow, Jerry Lawler, tag team wrestling.

September 1999: Why Stone-Cold Might Get Out While He's Still On Top! Centerfold: Sting. Plus: Kidman & Misterio, The Rock, Bret Hart, Taz-Sabu.

October 1999: Why The World Must Fear Scott Steiner, By Buff Bagwell. Centerfold: Mankind. Plus: Kane & X-Pac, The Godfather, Perry Saturn, 20th anniversary readers' poll.

November 1999: The Women Of The WWF: There's More To Their Power Than Their Looks. Centerfold: Owen Hart. Plus: Rey Misterio Jr., Roddy Piper, Steiners, Steve Austin.

December 1999: Steve Austin: "CEO This! I'm The Damn Champ!" Centerfold: Rey Misterio Jr. Plus: Randy Savage, Jimmy Hart, WCW youth, Billy Gunn.

Holiday 1999 (100-Page Special Issue): *PWI* 500. Ninth Annual Special.

January 2000: The Millennium Man Mouths Off! An Unforgettable Hour With Chris Jericho! Centerfold: Taz. Plus: Chris Benoit, Sid-Goldberg, Triple-H.

February 2000: The Master Manipulator! How Stone-Cold Controls The WWF. Centerfold: Kane. Plus: Paul Heyman, Hogan-Bret-Sting-Luger.

March 2000 (100-Page Special Issue): 1999—The Year In Wrestling. 1999 In Review, Achievement '99 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 2000.

May 2000 (100-Page Special Issue): The Y2K *PWI* Poll. Plus: Mitsuharu Misawa, Triple-H, Bret Hart, Hollys, Chyna & Aysa, ECW returnees.

June 2000: Just Wondering, Steph ... Is Triple-H Worth Your Billion-Dollar Inheritance? Centerfold: The Rock. Plus: Heyman-Van Dam, Vader, NWO.

July 2000: Call It A Wrap, Jack! You've Done Your Share ... Go Home! Centerfold: Sid Vicious. Plus: Dusty Rhodes, Disco Inferno, DDP, Dudleys-Hardys.

August 2000 (100-Page Special Issue): Supercards 2000: WWF WrestleMania, WCW Uncensored, ECW Living Dangerously. Plus: Rob Van Dam, greatest supercards, Super 8.

September 2000: Wrestle McMania! Why The Peace Can't Last. Centerfold: Jeff Jarrett. Plus: Eric Bischoff, Dudleys, Raven.

October 2000: Scott Steiner: The Superstars The WWF Let Slip Away: Centerfold: Rikishi. Plus: Shawn Michaels, Austin-Rock, Rhino-RVD.

November 2000: The Rock vs. Triple-H. Our Special 50-Category Analysis. Pinups: Extreme wrestling. Plus: Nash-Steiner-Hall, Hardcore Holly, wrestling too extreme?

December 2000: Head Hog! Does Undertaker Have Enough Gas In His Tank To Rumble To The Top? Centerfold: Dallas Page. Plus: Kurt Angle, Rikishi, Vampiro-Sting, Japan.

[FULL-COLOR BEGINNING WITH HOLIDAY 2000]

Holiday 2000 (116-Page Special): *PWI* 500. Includes: The editors' views, a look back at 1991's top 25, Achievement 2000 ballot.

January 2001: Who Does He Really Hate? Someone Will Pay For Austin's Pain! Plus: Steven Richards, Justin Credible, Gordon Solie, Jeff Jarrett, Arn-Sid.

February 2001 (116-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Includes: The states of the WWF, WCW, ECW, independents, international, the business, the art.

March 2001: Hulk Hogan: WWF Fans Want Him Back! Plus: Mike Awesome, Rikishi, Jerry Lynn, Elix Skipper, Triple-H.

April 2001 (116-Page Special): 2000—The Year In Wrestling. 2000 In Review, Achievement 2000 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 2001.

May 2001: The WrestleMania Curse! Will The Great One Ever Win The Big One? Plus: Vince McMahon, William Regal, Page & Nash, Ivory, Lance Storm, ECW.

June 2001 (116-Page Special): The 2001 *PWI* Poll. Plus: Ric Flair, Chyna, Steve Austin.

July 2001: Women's Work! It Ain't What It Used To Be! Plus: Dudleys, Chavo Guerrero Jr., Justin Credible, Francine, Scott Steiner.

August 2001 (116-Page Special): Supercards 2001: WrestleMania X-Seven, WCW Night of Champions, Super 8. Plus: Big Show, Kane, Jeff Jarrett, Tommy Dreamer.

September 2001: WWF-WCW: The 10 Questions That Must Be Answered. Plus: Triple-H, Stacy Keibler, Paul Heyman, Matt Hardy.

October 2001 (116-Page Special): Mid-Year Report: Top 50 stories, grades, half-year awards, predictions. Plus: Perry Saturn, Dallas Page, Terri.

November 2001: A Crying Shane: He Paid The Price To Purchase WCW ... Is He Willing To Pay The Price To Keep It? Plus: DDP-Kimberly, Edge, Molly-Spike, Tajiri, Rob Van Dam, Mick Foley, Florida indies.

December 2001 (116-Page Special): *PWI* 500—Angle Climbs To The Top. Includes: The editors' views, Achievement 2001 ballot.

January 2002: There's Something About Lita—What Makes Her The WWF's "It" Girl. Plus: Jericho-Stephanie, Mark Henry, X-Pac, Triple-H, Undertaker.

February 2002 (116-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Includes: The states of the WWF, independents, international, the business, the art. Plus: Goldberg.

March 2002: No More Joking, No More Choking: Y2J Takes A Serious Stab At Superstardom! Plus: Test, The Rock, Eric Bischoff, Bradshaw, Foley vs. Regal.

Send to:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Fort Washington, PA 19034

Please send me the back issues I have checked off. I have enclosed $5 for each issue as payment in full or provided my credit card number to charge my purchase ($20 minimum).

☐ APR 85	☐ NOV 92	☐ JAN 99	☐ NOV 00
☐ JUN 85	☐ FEB 93	☐ MAR 99	☐ DEC 00
☐ JAN 90	☐ MAY 93	☐ APR 99	☐ HOL 00
☐ FEB 90	☐ APR 96	☐ MAY 99	☐ JAN 01
☐ MAY 90	☐ MAY 96	☐ JUN 99	☐ FEB 01
☐ JUL 90	☐ AUG 96	☐ JUL 99	☐ MAR 01
☐ SEP 90	☐ OCT 96	☐ AUG 99	☐ APR 01
☐ OCT 90	☐ WIN 96	☐ SEP 99	☐ MAY 01
☐ FEB 91	☐ FEB 97	☐ OCT 99	☐ JUN 01
☐ APR 91	☐ MAY 97	☐ NOV 99	☐ JUL 01
☐ JUN 91	☐ AUG 97	☐ DEC 99	☐ AUG 01
☐ JUL 91	☐ HOL 97	☐ HOL 99	☐ SEP 01
☐ AUG 91	☐ FEB 98	☐ JAN 00	☐ OCT 01
☐ OCT 91	☐ MAR 98	☐ FEB 00	☐ NOV 01
☐ NOV 91	☐ MAY 98	☐ MAR 00	☐ DEC 01
☐ FEB 92	☐ JUN 98	☐ MAY 00	☐ JAN 02
☐ MAY 92	☐ JUL 98	☐ JUN 00	☐ FEB 02
☐ JUN 92	☐ OCT 98	☐ JUL 00	☐ MAR 02
☐ JUL 92	☐ NOV 98	☐ AUG 00	
☐ SEP 92	☐ DEC 98	☐ SEP 00	
☐ OCT 92	☐ HOL 98	☐ OCT 00	

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA

☐ MasterCard

Card number: _____

Expiration date: ____/____
MO/YR

Signature _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ **APT** ____

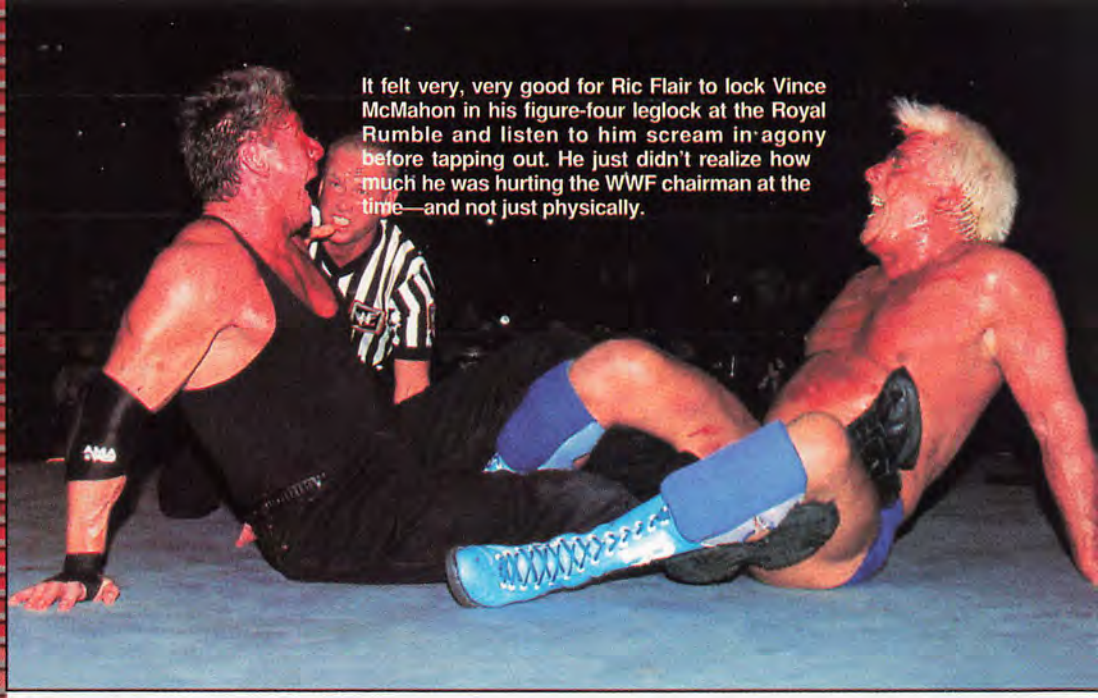
CITY _____ **STATE** ____ **ZIP** _____

In case of sellout, indicate two substitute choices: _____ _____

For all orders outside the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent via surface mail, and $3.00 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

5778/11-01

press conference...



It felt very, very good for Ric Flair to lock Vince McMahon in his figure-four leglock at the Royal Rumble and listen to him scream in agony before tapping out. He just didn't realize how much he was hurting the WWF chairman at the time—and not just physically.

RIC FLAIR

A SAVVY STRATEGIST. A cunning manipulator. A tenacious competitor. The dirtiest player in the game.

All those phrases accurately describe Ric Flair the wrestler. As we all found out a few months ago, those phrases also describe Ric Flair the businessman. Flair's purchase of 50 percent of WWF stock—25 percent from Shane McMahon and 25 percent from Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley—was a perfectly orchestrated power play. Regardless of how the WWF vs. Alliance feud turned out in the end, Flair would have emerged as a co-owner of the Federation. Even if Shane and Stephanie had ousted their father, Flair still would have been in possession of their stock. In fact, Shane and Stephanie would have been Flair's employees, because the "Nature Boy" would have become majority owner by default.

At first, Flair took a wait-and-see approach to his new duties. He seemed to enjoy flustering Vince McMahon by simply making his presence known, but he also seemed content to let the WWF run status quo. He didn't see the need for a major overhaul; he was just happy to be back in the game.

McMahon, however, wouldn't let Flair sit idle. Very early into their new business relationship, he began trying to establish his dominance over his partner. But as McMahon pushed, it became obvious that Flair would eventually push back—and push back hard.

The two of them wrestled each other in a streetfight at the Royal Rumble, but that violent, bloody match settled little. All losing to Flair by submission on pay-per-view did was push McMahon over the edge. Only weeks after that loss, McMahon decided to do himself and his WWF in by opening his checkbook and signing Hulk Hogan, Scott Hall, and Kevin Nash—the New World Order.

McMahon blamed Flair for forcing his hand. Flair called McMahon irrational. Perhaps both were right.

Flair discussed what made him purchase Shane and Stephanie's stock, his thoughts on Vince McMahon's mindset, and whether or not the WWF can handle the NWO when Editor-in-Chief Dave Lenker and Senior Writers Will Welsh and Dan Murphy interviewed him after the February 4 edition of ***Raw****.*

Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.

DAN MURPHY: It's an honor to have you join us today, Mr. Flair. We hope that we're not taking up too much of your time with this interview.

RIC FLAIR: Don't worry, Murph. You'll know your time is up when I get out of this chair and leave. So what do you three have for me today?

DAVE LENKER: Well, Ric, we thought that we'd start by asking you what made you want to become a co-owner of the WWF. None of us recall you detailing your reasoning behind the purchase of Shane and Stephanie's stock. Was it a spur-of-the-moment decision?

FLAIR: Dave, you don't go spending the amount of money that I spent on that stock based on a whim or a feeling. I knew what I was getting myself into. So did my partners.

WILL WELSH: So there are partners?

FLAIR: The WWF is a billion-dollar company. If you think that I had half a billion dollars to go spending on WWF stock, you've apparently forgotten that wrestling didn't become a lucrative sport until the mid- to late-'90s. Thankfully, I have friends in high places who trust me with their money.

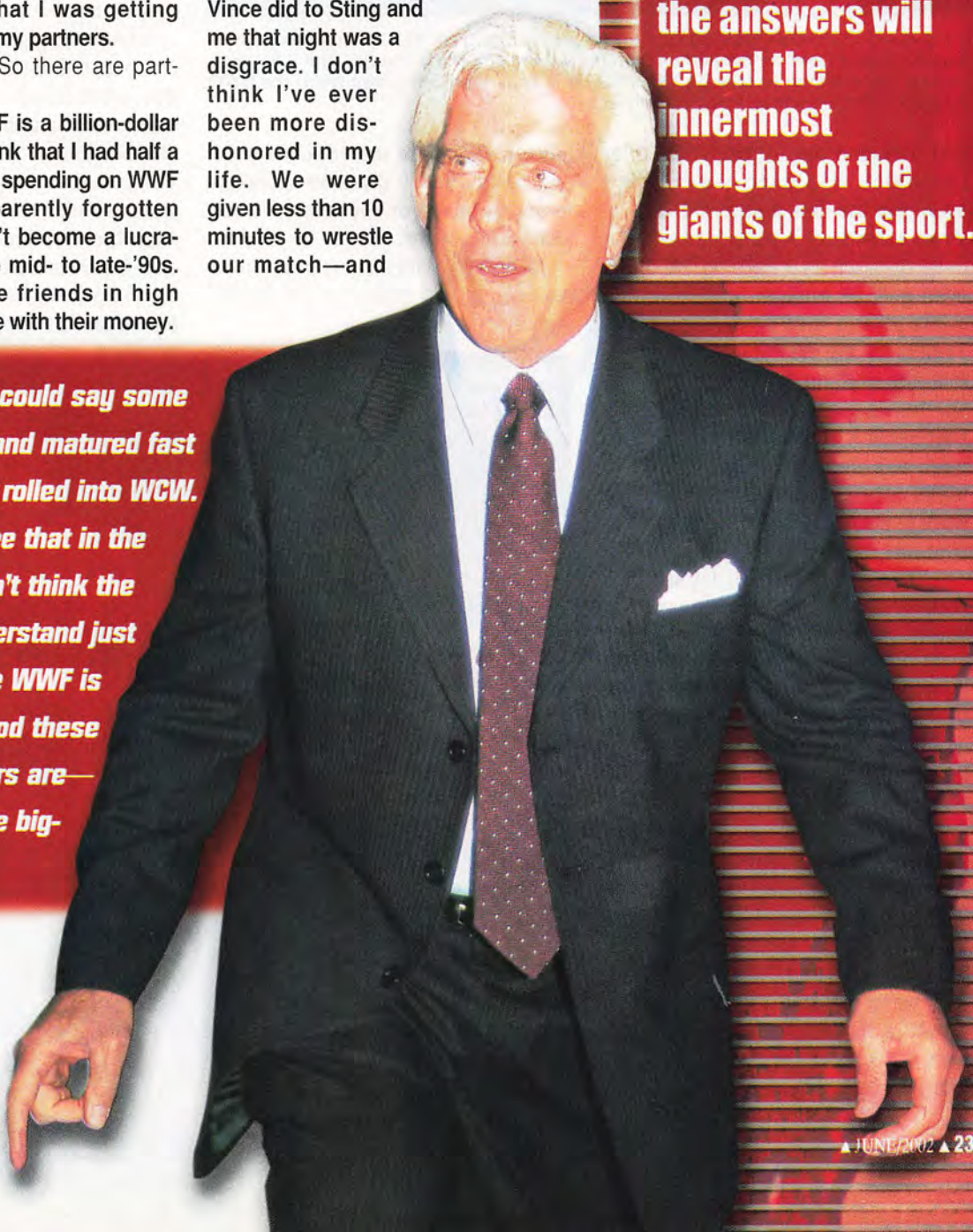
WELSH: But are you the majority owner of that stock? Or are you just a figurehead?

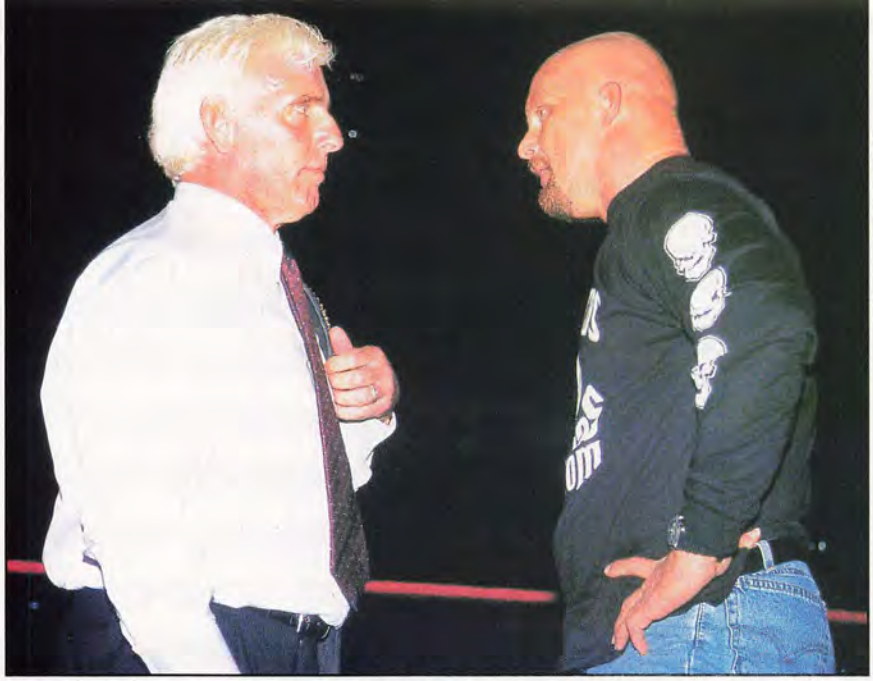
FLAIR: I'm the one on TV every week, aren't I?

MURPHY: Come on, Will, stop the badgering. But, Ric, there was a good question hidden in there somewhere. Why did you want to become a co-owner of the WWF? I thought that you would have been happy with the way your career ended.

FLAIR: The way my career ended and my consortium's purchase of Shane and Stephanie's stock really have nothing to do with one another. Was I pleased with the way my career ended on that last *Nitro*? No. What Vince did to Sting and me that night was a disgrace. I don't think I've ever been more dishonored in my life. We were given less than 10 minutes to wrestle our match—and

"I guess you could say some guys grew up and matured fast when the NWO rolled into WCW. I think you'll see that in the WWF, too. I don't think the NWO guys understand just how strong the WWF is or just how good these WWF superstars are—and not just the big-name guys."





It's a good thing that Flair has found an ally in the form of a man named Steve Austin. "Stone-Cold" is the perfect man to lead the anti-NWO charge. And it appears he'll be more willing to take on the NWO right away than Sting was when the NWO invaded WCW more than a half-decade ago.

that included our intros. Then, after the match was over, we couldn't even give the fans a proper goodbye. Vince turned off *Nitro's* feed without even so much as a warning. He didn't even give us enough time to grab a microphone and say, "Goodbye. Thanks for the memories." But again, that has nothing to do with my consortium's purchase of Shane and Stephanie's stock. That was a pure business decision. I saw a way to make money while continuing to work in the sport that I love. The decision was that simple.

LENKER: Did you have any concerns about what would happen once everyone learned that you were the new co-owner?

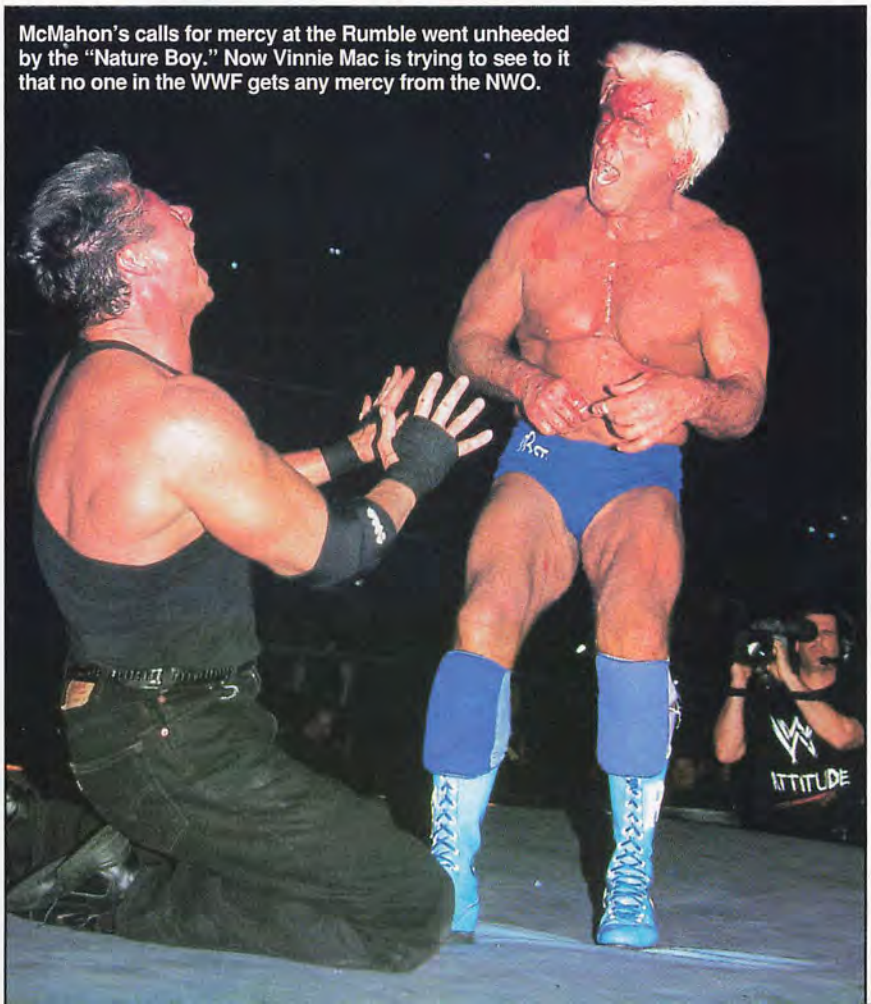
FLAIR: Honestly, I thought it would be good for business. Over the years, the WWF alienated a whole lot of wrestling fans. When *Nitro* went off the air, a lot of those fans didn't know where to turn. Just like that, the WCW that they knew and loved didn't exist anymore. That left a void in their lives. That's certainly not because the WWF isn't a good product. It's just different than what WCW fans were used to. Just like Pepsi and Coke are different. That being the case, I thought that my presence might attract some of those fans back. Though I'm in the WWF today and have been before, fans will always associate me with the NWA and WCW. Plus, it gives me a chance to say goodbye on my terms, not on McMahon's terms.

MURPHY: With that criteria in mind, how would you rate your job performance so far?

FLAIR: To be honest, Dan, I'm not too sure. I'm Ric Flair. I'm the greatest wrestler to ever lace up the boots. However, I'm not known as the greatest spokesperson or the greatest owner or the greatest businessman ever. Even my last years in WCW, I was wrestling a whole lot more than I am now. I'm not sure if the fans have adjusted to seeing Ric Flair in a suit all the time yet. Now if you would ask me how I'm doing in my job as co-owner of the WWF, I wouldn't have one bad thing to say about my job performance. Everything I've done, I've done for the good of the WWF and the fans, whether they realize it or not.

WELSH: So pushing Vince McMahon over the edge was good for the WWF?

FLAIR: Absolutely. I think so. When is the last time you've seen McMahon this rabid about anything? I think it was when he and "Stone-Cold" were at the height of their feud. Back then, Vince was maniacal, an honest-to-God madman. He wanted Austin gone from the WWF more than life itself, and Austin's stubborn refusal to do anything but give in sent Vince over the edge. That was the most fired up



McMahon's calls for mercy at the Rumble went unheeded by the "Nature Boy." Now Vinnie Mac is trying to see to it that no one in the WWF gets any mercy from the NWO.

Flair does know exactly what he's getting into with the NWO. He probably knows Hulk Hogan better than any other wrestler active today (left), and he's pretty familiar with Kevin Nash as well (above). Yet it's a bit surprising to hear him say the NWO could be good for the WWF.

the guy's ever been. Now I think I'm forcing Vince to tap into that side of himself and investigate it for a second time. From an excitement point of view, that can only be a good thing.

MURPHY: But what about the New World Order? Are you saying that Hulk Hogan, Scott Hall, and Kevin Nash are going to be good for the WWF as well?

FLAIR: In a word, and I didn't come to this conclusion until after much soul searching, the answer is yes.

MURPHY: How is that possible? Hogan, Hall, and Nash are out to destroy the WWF! McMahon called them poison.

FLAIR: That's correct. And I say let them have at it. As long as they don't succeed, we're the better for their presence.

MURPHY: How so?

FLAIR: Hogan ... Hall ... Nash. Together, they were responsible for the wrestling boom of the late-'90s. Their creation of the NWO kicked it off, fellas. They made a lot of enemies in WCW in a short time, but they brought some people together, too. Some guys came together to fight them, and some guys who weren't sure what they were made of found out when they went to war with the NWO. I guess you could say some guys grew up and matured fast when the NWO rolled into WCW. I think you'll see that in the WWF, too. I don't think the NWO guys understand just how strong the WWF is or just how good these WWF superstars are—and not just the big-name guys.

LENKER: Well, I don't think anyone would argue with the fact that the NWO really started WCW's boom period. It'd be very hard to dispute that claim. But the NWO is also the group that led to WCW's demise. By the time the New World Order was finished with World Championship Wrestling, WCW was a shambles of its former self. They pummeled it and pummeled it and pummeled it until it couldn't ever fully recover. Aren't you afraid of that same thing happening in the WWF?

FLAIR: Not at all. It's not going to happen that way. There's no way that it's going to happen that way this time around. Everyone forgets that the NWO had a whole year to grow and fester until someone really took charge and said, "This is going to stop!" And by the time Sting did face Hogan at Starrcade, the battle had already been lost. I'll love Sting until the day I die—he's like a brother to me—but he waited too long to get involved. He let too much happen while sitting up in the rafters. If he had stepped in right away, maybe WCW would've had a fighting shot right at the outset.

LENKER: And how do you know that the WWF locker room is going to do any better?

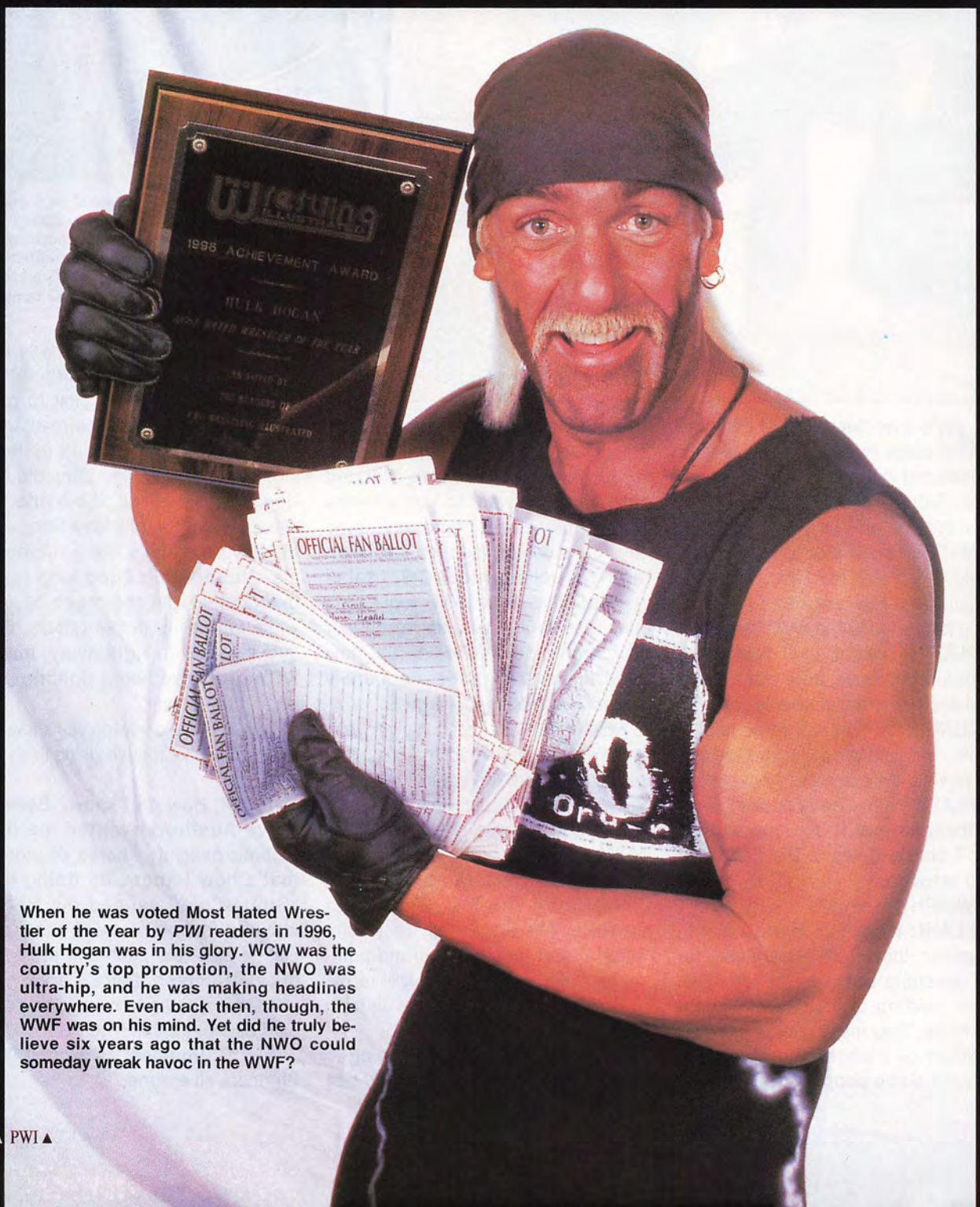
FLAIR: How do I know? Because Steve Austin prevented me from signing over my shares of stock—that's how I know. By doing that, "Stone-Cold" handed the NWO a shiny invitation to crash the party. But he also told them that if they do decide to crash, there's a very big price that's going to have to be paid.

WELSH: And that price, Ric?

FLAIR: Stunners all around, Will. Stunners all around. □

Hulk Hogan Told Us Five Years Ago That The NWO Would Take Over The WWF...

WHY DIDN'T



When he was voted Most Hated Wrestler of the Year by *PWI* readers in 1996, Hulk Hogan was in his glory. WCW was the country's top promotion, the NWO was ultra-hip, and he was making headlines everywhere. Even back then, though, the WWF was on his mind. Yet did he truly believe six years ago that the NWO could someday wreak havoc in the WWF?

ANYONE LISTEN?

HAVE THE FANS STABBED SHAWN IN THE BACK?
WRESTLE America
FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
Special Magazine Within A Magazine: The 20 Greatest WrestleMania Matches Ever!
HULK HOGAN
"The NWO Is Taking Over The WWF Next!"
TERRY FUNK: ALL PRAISE THE LORD OF THE EXTREME
THE NEW RAZOR & DIESEL: WHY THE WWF IS POWERLESS TO STOP THEM
SPRING 1997

We weren't sure whether to take Hogan's boast about the NWO taking over the WWF seriously, but it was such a shocking comment that we felt it would make an intriguing cover for the Spring 1997 issue of *Wrestle America*.

By Dan Murphy

IN SOME WAYS, the news of Hulk Hogan's imminent return to the WWF in 2002 was more shocking than his 1996 heel turn.

Back in 1994, Hogan's signing with WCW was almost a mortal wound to the federation he had called home for a decade. McMahon responded to what he perceived as Hogan's betrayal by diminishing the "Hulkster's" WWF legacy through ridicule, most notably via those infamous "Billionaire Ted" skits that portrayed Hogan as a decrepit has-been. Each succeeding WWF champion—including Bret Hart, Shawn Michaels, Steve Austin, The Rock, and Triple-H—was hyped as the "greatest" or "fightingest" or "most controversial" champion in WWF history. Hogan's five reigns, encompassing a total of six years, were conveniently filed away in the murky recesses of Federation history, presumably alongside the reigns of Bruno Sammartino and "Superstar" Billy Graham.

To fight the negative p.r. of losing Hogan and Randy Savage—and later Scott Hall and Kevin Nash—McMahon looked to rebrand his company. With liberal borrowing from ECW, McMahon developed "WWF Attitude." He created more realistic and adult-oriented storylines and placed a larger emphasis on youth and athleticism.

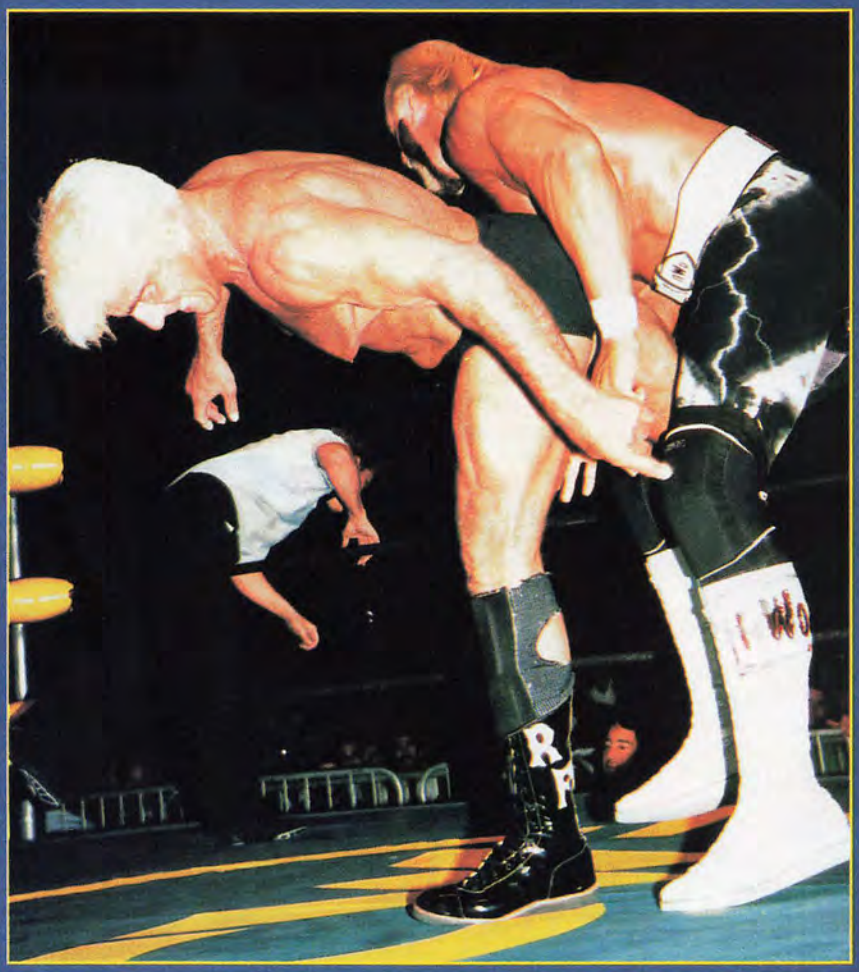
The wrestling public had outgrown the era of Hogan-esque superheroes; it was time for Austin-esque anti-heroes.

All of this is why word of Hogan's return to the WWF

Hogan's Unfinished Business in the WWF

The last time Hulk Hogan wrestled for a major promotion, he was verbally abused, publicly humiliated, and told he was no longer welcome in WCW.

Considering Vince Russo's treatment of Hogan at Bash at the Beach 2000, it's a minor miracle that he still has any desire to lace up the boots and try again. So why at this stage of his career would Hogan want to step back into the ring and square off against the best the WWF has to offer? Hogan is the only person who knows his true motivations, but one thing is certain: The "Hulkster" still has unfinished business to settle in the WWF. Here are his five most likely goals:



"One more time, Ric?"

Eclipse Flair's record. Ric Flair has won 16 world titles in his career. Hogan has won 11. Anyone who doesn't think Hogan is keenly aware of those numbers does not know what drives Hulk Hogan. If he wants to win more world titles than Flair before he retires, Hogan has plenty of work ahead of him, and unless someone who shares Vince Russo's view of titles rises to power in the WWF, he is unlikely to do it. These days, the WWF title is his only option, but once the WWF splits into two, he might again have a second world title to pursue.

Beat Flair at WrestleMania. WrestleMania is the biggest event in wrestling. Flair and Hogan are two of the most famous and successful wrestlers of all-time. Though they've wrestled each other more times than we care to count, they have never faced off at WrestleMania. Beating Flair at 'Mania could be the pinnacle of Hogan's career.

Humiliate Vince McMahon. Hogan vs. McMahon. Grudge matches do not get any bigger. There's plenty of ill will between Hogan and his former boss. Now that McMahon fancies himself a part-time wrestler, Hogan finally has the opportunity to take his frustrations out on the brains behind "The Huckster."

Avenge his loss to The Undertaker. At Survivor Series 1991, The Undertaker pinned Hogan after a tombstone piledriver onto a steel chair that was placed in the ring by Flair. Hogan won the WWF belt back six days later, but the match was marred by controversy and the title was held up. Since then, 'Taker has been the most dominant and durable competitor in the WWF. Hogan still hasn't earned a convincing win over him. He still wants one.

Team with The Rock. Hogan considers himself a fan of The Rock. Though he would be unlikely to admit it in public, The Rock also considers himself a fan of Hogan. Though they're vastly different performers, Hogan and Rock can electrify crowds like no one else. If he still has a torch left to pass, Hogan will want to hand it off to this man, and he'll want to do it as a friend.

has been so shocking. It's like having Neil Diamond headline the Warped Tour.

Who could have foreseen Hogan and the NWO—the brainchild of Eric Bischoff, no less—ever setting up camp in the WWF?

The whole thing is absolutely implausible ... unless you're Hulk Hogan.

In fact, a return to the WWF might have been in his plans all along.

In fact, Hogan admitted as much ... in print ... in this very family of magazines! In fact, it was announced in a banner headline on the cover of the Spring 1997 issue of *Wrestle America:* "Hulk Hogan: The NWO Is Taking Over The WWF Next!"

Flash back to the winter of 1996. The NWO was really just starting its takeover of WCW. The group had begun recruiting new members and had announced Ted DiBiase was helping to fund the invasion. Bischoff was fingered as the mole in the front office, and The Giant (Big Show) was stepping into the role of head enforcer for the supergroup.

Basking in the renewed attention from the media, Hogan began holding impromptu press conferences following live events. For the most part, Hogan crowed about how the NWO was going to "take over WCW" and "destroy the tradition" of the company—the same message he delivered on every WCW telecast.

On this December night, a reporter asked what now seems to be an important question,

Expect to see the same bullying tactics that the NWO used in WCW (below) and maybe even a few spray-painting jobs (left) in the WWF in 2002. Does Vince McMahon know what he has done?

Ted DiBiase won't be along for the ride this time, but the NWO will still be doing a lot of posing, preening, and posturing, just as members of the group did throughout their long run in WCW. For Hogan, it will be an opportunity to end his career in a positive way.

and received an ominous and prophetic answer:

"You've got Bischoff now. You're more powerful than ever. So let's assume you do take over WCW ... or wipe it out," the reporter said. "What happens then? Do you do the same to the WWF?"

Hogan paused. Then a twinkle came into his eye as he broke into a wide smile. "Why not?" he responded. "After all, WCW is on life support. You can go ahead and write the obituary now. If we ever get the chance, sure. I like the sound of that. The NWO is taking over the WWF next! Who can stop us? With the strength of the NWO, no federation is safe, brother."

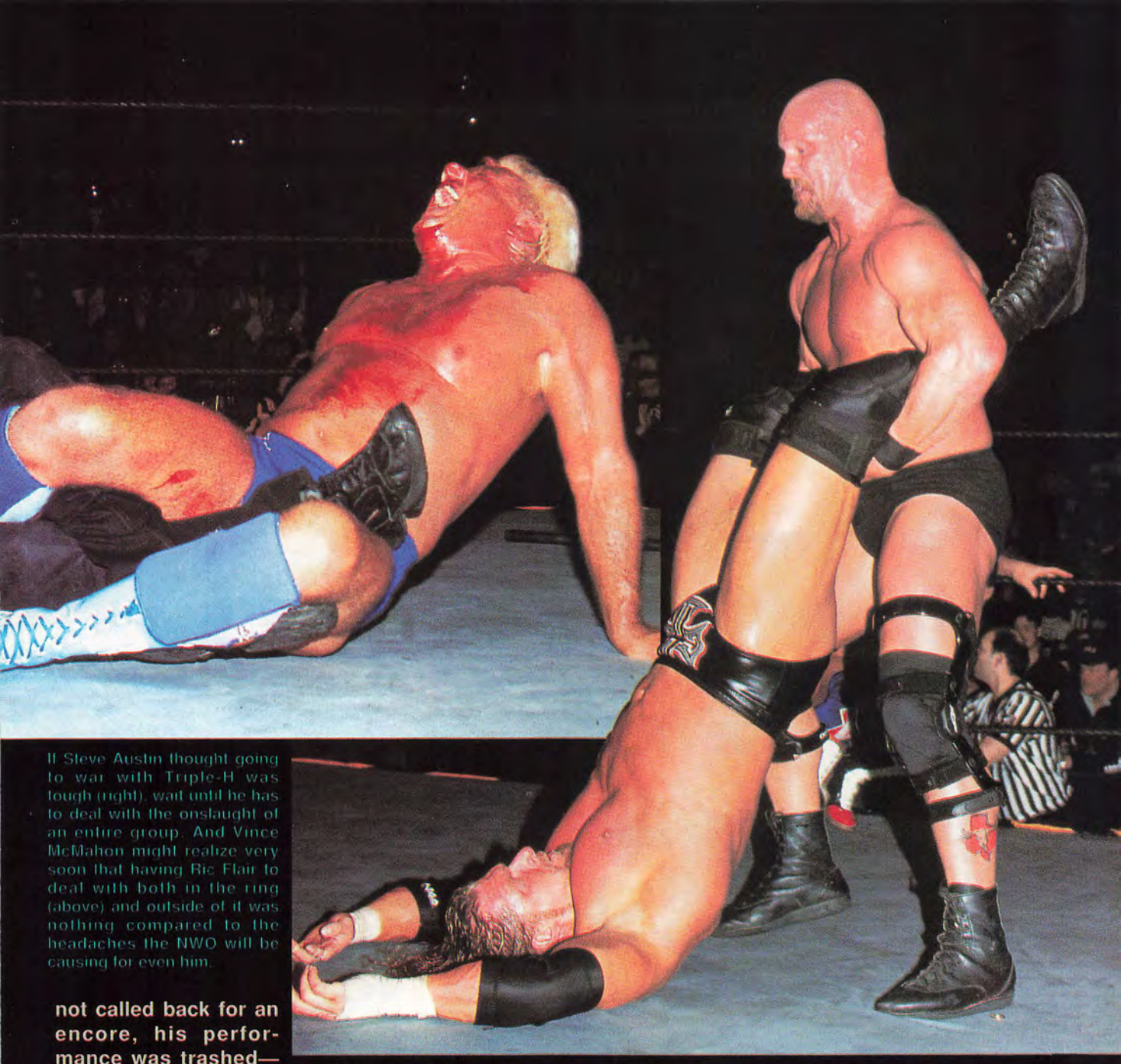
"You're not kidding?"

"If the opportunity was there, brother, we'd take over anything!" That exchange was published five years ago. Now it looks like Hogan is going to make good on his threat. The question is, why didn't anyone take him seriously? In retrospect, we all should have seen this NWO invasion coming a long time ago.

"I don't know if it's fair to take something Hogan said five years ago and then ask people in the WWF why they weren't expecting the NWO to come here," said WWF analyst Thomas Pilliard. "That comment was made in the height of the promotional war between WCW and the WWF, and both sides were saying things they didn't really mean. It seems to me like a throwaway comment given to a reporter who was clearly asking a loaded question. What other answer could Hogan give in that type of scenario? I think putting too much stock in a quote like that at the time was just ridiculous, but it turns out it wasn't all that ridiculous after all."

Sources close to Hogan have long claimed he wanted nothing more than to end his career in the promotion he boosted to worldwide prominence. Without Hulk Hogan, there might not be a WWF as we know it today. Maybe no WrestleMania, no Rock or "Stone-Cold," no billion-dollar empire for the McMahons. Hogan built the stage. When he made his exit stage left, not only was he

"Without Hulk Hogan, there might not be a WWF as we know it today. Maybe no WrestleMania, no Rock or Stone-Cold,' no billion-dollar empire for the McMahons. Hogan built the stage. When he made his exit stage left, not only was he not called back for an encore, his performance was trashed–then ignored. For years, Hogan has burned for an opportunity to come full circle, to headline another WrestleMania."



If Steve Austin thought going to war with Triple-H was tough (right), wait until he has to deal with the onslaught of an entire group. And Vince McMahon might realize very soon that having Ric Flair to deal with both in the ring (above) and outside of it was nothing compared to the headaches the NWO will be causing for even him.

not called back for an encore, his performance was trashed—then ignored. For years, Hogan has burned for an opportunity to come full circle, to headline another WrestleMania—perhaps to even win a sixth WWF title.

In a way, even as a heel, he's still cupping his hand to his ear, desperately seeking the fans' approval. Hogan failed in his attempts in Hollywood, a fact he admitted in a recent ESPN interview. Though the business that he helped build has become a worldwide phenomenon, Hogan himself can't get respect. He is strongly associated with the dying days of a troubled WCW.

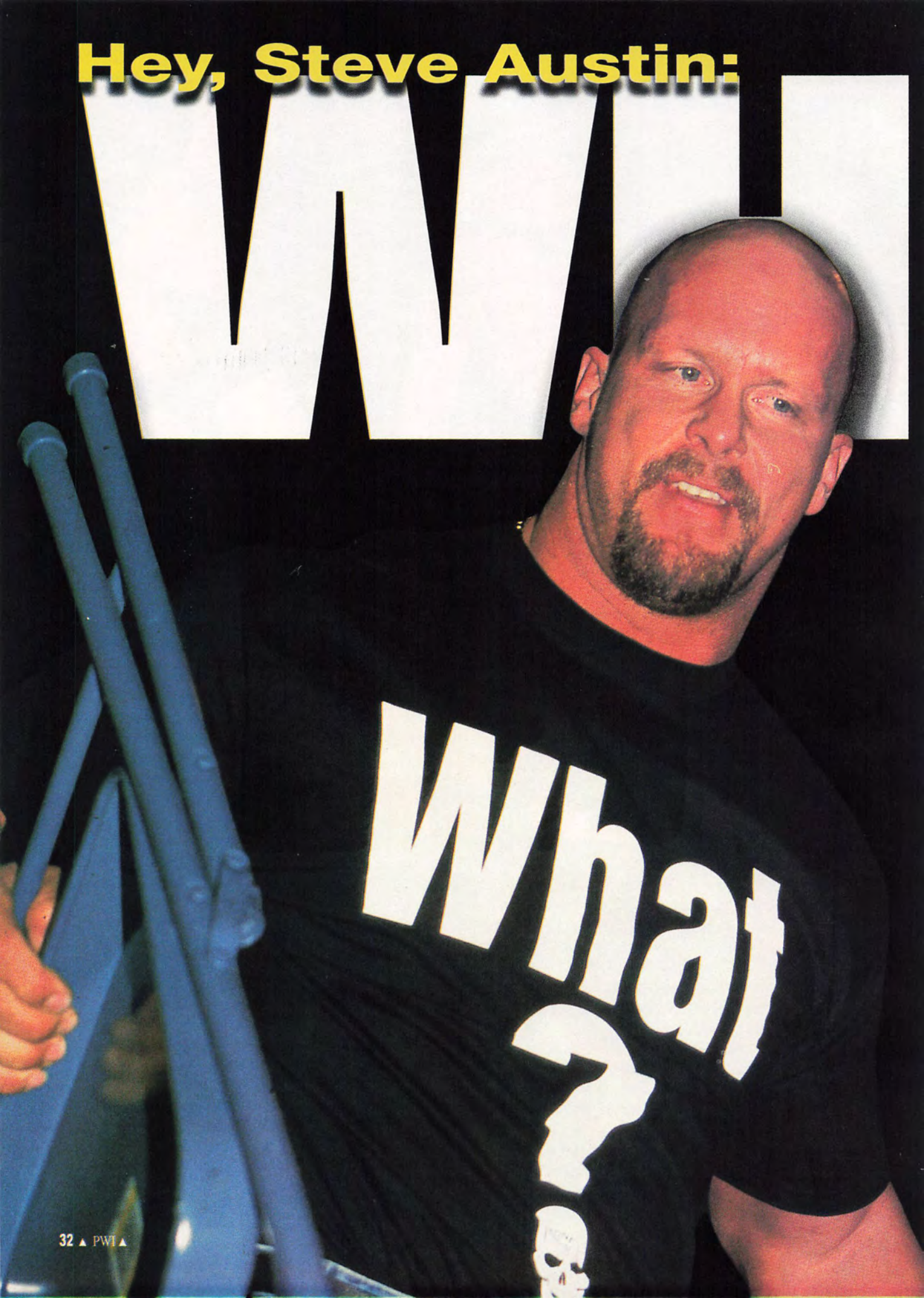
PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED Editor-in-Chief Dave Lenker says Hogan's comment might simply have been a matter of bravado, but it also shows a window into Hogan's deeper motivations.

"I don't think Hogan ever put the thought of a return to the WWF out of his mind," Lenker said. "At the time, we in the media just chalked it up to Hogan's ego being out of control. I mean, just a short while later, he claimed he was running for President. Hogan made so many outrageous claims, you just had to tune most of them out. In a way, I think that may have contributed to Hogan's resolve. When people didn't believe he would—or could—bring the NWO into the WWF, it made him even more determined to do just that."

And in 2002, with Vince McMahon feeling threatened by Ric Flair and desperate for a solution to his problems with the "Nature Boy," the timing is finally just right. □

Hey, Steve Austin:

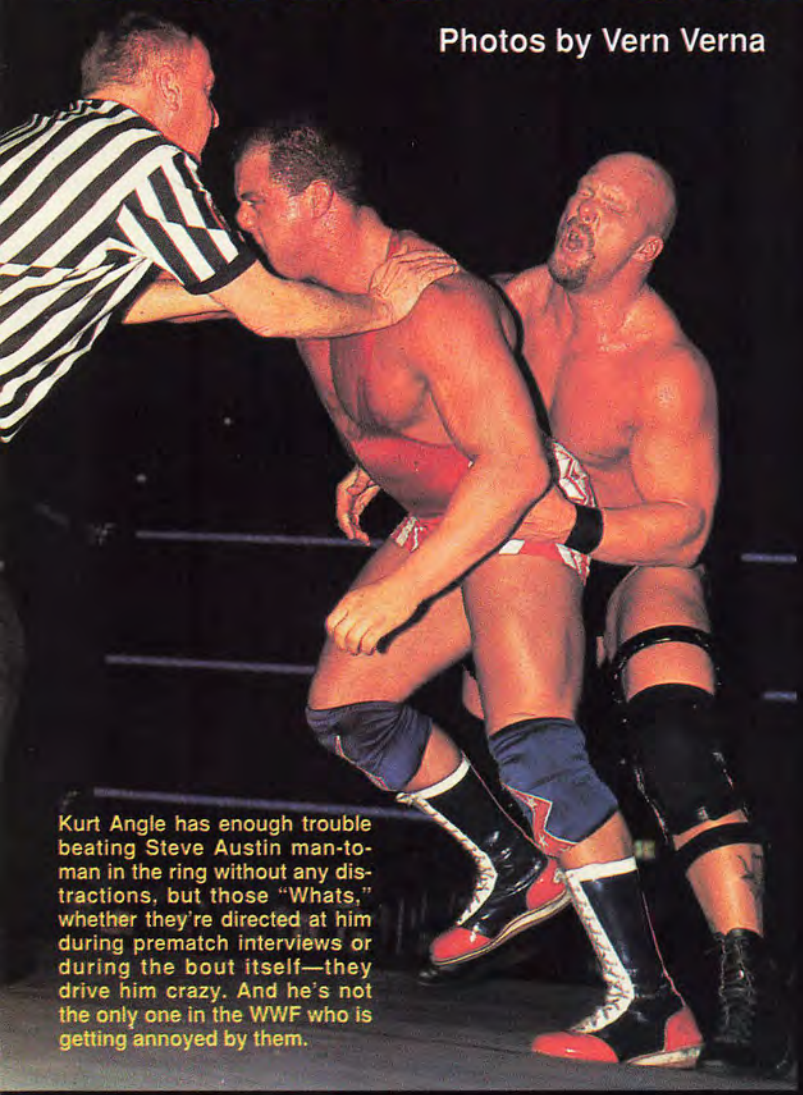
WI



AT The Hell Have You Done?

Photos by Vern Verna

By Frank Krewda



Kurt Angle has enough trouble beating Steve Austin man-to-man in the ring without any distractions, but those "Whats," whether they're directed at him during prematch interviews or during the bout itself—they drive him crazy. And he's not the only one in the WWF who is getting annoyed by them.

WHETHER *(WHAT)* THE *(what)* current *(what)* crop *(what)* of *(what)* WWF *(what)* superstars *(what)* likes *(what)* "Stone-Cold" *(what)* Steve *(what)* Austin *(what)* or *(what)* despises *(what)* him *(what),* just *(what)* about *(what)* all *(what)* of *(what)* them *(what)* are *(what)* being *(what)* affected *(what)* by *(what)* "The *(what)* Texas *(what)* Rattlesnake's" *(what)* simple *(what)* yet *(what)* catchy *(what)* tagline *(what).*

And if you actually had the patience to read the preceding paragraph from beginning to end, you'd certainly understand the frustration many of them are feeling. It's that type of distraction most WWF performers must slog through whenever they grab a microphone to deliver a promo these days.

Example: The fans hardly reacted to the relatively exciting Mr. Perfect vs. Val Venis match on the January 21 *Raw,* yet lustily participated in Austin's recitation of the *Beverly Hillbillies* theme song after he ended the match by bashing Hennig with a chair and dropping "The Big Valbowski" with a stunner. Obviously, the latest breed of WWF fan would rather participate in a

"Stone-Cold" singalong than watch two returning stars in a competitive bout. Surely we can't be alone in asking, Steve Austin, *what* the hell have you done?

Of course, this situation might not present much of a problem to men like Kane or Tajiri, who say very little. But for wrestlers such as Chris Jericho, Kurt Angle, and Lance Storm, all of whom rely as heavily on what they say as what they do to keep their personae fresh, plying their trade in the WWF has become challenging, indeed.

Storm recently recounted on his Web site a conversation he had with Jericho at one show and how they agreed that cutting promos and getting their message across to fans would be difficult to do in the next six months to a year, depending on just how long "What?!" remains red-hot.

"This situation might not present much of a problem to men like Kane or Tajiri, who say very little. But for wrestlers such as Chris Jericho, Kurt Angle, and Lance Storm, all of whom rely as heavily on what they say as what they do to keep their personae fresh, plying their trade in the WWF has become challenging, indeed."

To some fans, this might be overstating the point. But when you think about just how desperate the WWF fans have seemingly become to shout down these three (and other) heels, that ominous prediction could very well prove accurate. After all, a number of fans at Madison Square Garden recently tried to drown out Lilian Garcia as she sang the national anthem.

"I've seen some unpleasant things in my career," Angle told *PWI*. "But when the citizens of this country try to shout above our national anthem, somebody has to say enough. And when they try to interrupt me, a genuine Olympic hero ... you talk about disrespect. Talk about having no class. Talk about a lack of pride. What's wrong with these people?"

If the Olympic gold medalist appears more ticked than most "What?!" victims, there's a good reason for it. Crowds have taken exceptional glee in yelling this word long and loud whenever he attempts to address them, even if he isn't making a point about Austin. Never known for keeping a cool head, Angle knows his critics have delighted in watching the object of their ire become emotionally unhinged whenever they raise the chant. And it's no wonder Angle reacts so emphatically. Every chant of "What?!" directed at him is a cheer for "Stone-Cold," his arch-nemesis. Predictably, Angle blames Austin for the recent "What?!" craze.

"No kidding I blame Austin," Angle continued. "Only a stupid, beer-guzzling redneck like him would find humor in that one little word. It's no surprise his asinine fans followed his lead. *What?!* What's so funny about that?"

Storm, however, contends that the fans are more culpable than their hero in this circumstance. "The problem is that the crowd is so tied up in getting their 'Whats' in that they no longer listen to your promo," he wrote.

What makes this whole situa-

As "Stone-Cold" goes nose-to-nose with Triple-H, you can almost feel the intensity, the tension in the air. But if Triple-H were to grab a microphone and try to deliver a message or warning to Austin, he had better not pause at the end of a line. If he did, he'd be likely to have a certain word screamed at him by thousands.

tion even more perplexing to Storm is that the fans have become captivated by what many agree is a relatively lowbrow catchphrase (or is that catch-*word?*). It's easy to agree with Storm here. There is nothing particularly clever about shouting the word "What?!" when somebody tries to speak—or, in Garcia's case, sing.

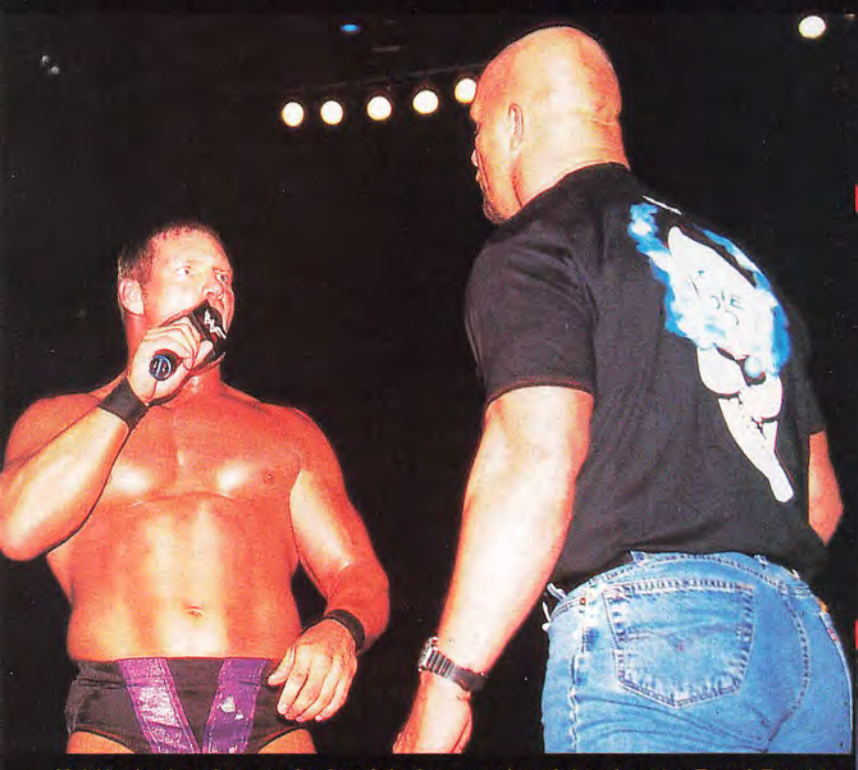
In fairness to Austin, he most likely isn't using his new catchphrase with the intention of stifling his comrades' careers. Yet as the flagship personality in the WWF, he does bear the responsibility of helping the other wrestlers get over, even if that means relinquishing some of his own heat. However, given "Stone-Cold's" admitted me-first attitude, it's most apparent that the rest of the WWF wrestlers will have to fight for whatever heat they can get.

And realistically, if this is one of the worst "problems" the WWF has to deal with, that's a pretty good thing. Crowds that are too enthusiastic. People making too much noise. Fans who are too excited about the product. Audience participation taken to an extreme. They're having too much fun at the shows!

Somebody do something about this madness!

Ultimately it will be the fans who do something about it. In time, more and more will grow tired of starting the chants, probably sooner than later (and probably less than six months from now). Austin will cease encouraging the chants and stop wearing T-shirts with that one four-letter word printed on the front. The craze will end, and maybe we'll be asking a different question: Why the hell did anyone make such a big deal out of it anyway? □

You don't hear too many "Whats" from once Austin starts actually wrestling—well, at least not when he's trying to execute an Irish whip. Sometimes if he's delivering rapid-fire punches to an opponent's head, the chants start up. It'll be interesting to see how long this phenomenon lasts.



Val Venis dared to get in Austin's face on the night after the Royal Rumble (above) and ended up taking a stunner so "Stone-Cold" could sing the *Beverly Hillbillies* theme song, complete with "Whats" thrown in by fans after every line. Both Lance Storm and Chris Jericho (right) have found it challenging to talk over those one-word chants recently, even when neither had any issues with Austin.

The 2002 *PWI* Poll

WRESTLING'S 50 HOTTEST QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

Whether he incorporates chairs into his offense or not, Rob Van Dam is the best wrestler, pound-for-pound, in the world, according to the 2002 "*PWI* Poll." Of course it'll be interesting to see if Chris Benoit can return to form after spinal surgery and reclaim his "title" next year.

NO OTHER ANALYSIS of the industry separates the wrestlers who are hot from the ones who are not, differentiates what is working from what is not working, and forecasts future trends quite like the *"PWI* Poll." Each year, *PWI* asks wrestlers, promoters, referees, broadcasters, journalists, and photographers to gauge their own profession in this unique forum. In particular, we were anxious to see how the WWF-dominated industry, and the absence of WCW and ECW, would affect the results.

PWI sent 181 ballots via the U.S. Postal Service and e-mail to a cross-section of insiders in December, and 94 percent of the ballots were returned by our January 28 deadline. We encouraged comments in the space provided. The first 40 questions, which comprise Part I, address the general state of affairs in wrestling. Our final 10 questions, which we often refer to as the "Best Of The Best," comprise part two. These questions focus on the effectiveness of specific holds and maneuvers.

Rob Van Dam capitalized on Chris Benoit's injury hiatus to be named the best pound-for-pound wres-

We had just one question specifically about Scott Hall, Kevin Nash, and the NWO this year—whether they are worth the risk to the WWF—but we have a feeling we'll be asking a lot more about them in the 2003 poll.

tler. It will be interesting to see if Benoit, who placed first in both 2000 and 2001, will recapture the top spot next year, assuming he returns from spinal surgery at or near 100 percent effectiveness. Respondents also decided that if they could watch the matches of only one wrestler, they would choose Triple-H. His consistency in main-event matches made him a no-risk investment for pay-per-view buyers in 2000 and 2001.

And whom did our fickle respondents select as wrestling's sexiest woman? Stacy Keibler emerged as the flavor of the year, with Trish Stratus, Torrie Wilson, and Lita close behind. The Rock must have been even hunkier on the movie screen, as "The Great One" extended his lead as wrestling's sexiest man this year.

According to our respondents, R.C. Haas is the developmental wrestler the WWF should promote next, and Christopher Daniels is the top career-long independent star not under a developmental contract. The majority also predicted World Wrestling All-Stars and the Xtreme Wrestling Federation would become permanent fixtures, although few believed they would threaten the WWF anytime soon.

Respondents found themselves in the most agreement regarding whether the WWF could successfully split into two promotions. While 86 percent agreed it was possible, some questioned Vince McMahon's commitment to the venture. They were most split on the very next question. Only 55 percent believed Scott Hall, Kevin Nash, and Hulk Hogan were a worthwhile risk for the WWF. For the fourth year in a row, Jim Ross was named wrestling's best TV announcer. Anyone want to bet he makes it five in a row next year?

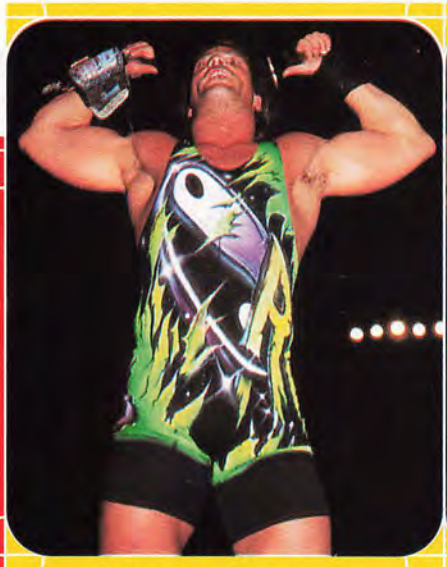
Rob Van Dam, Triple-H, Steve Austin, The Rock, and Tajiri were oft-mentioned names in this year's poll. Chris Jericho, Booker T, and Edge didn't impact the poll quite as much as expected. In this topsy-turvy year, former WCW stars Bill Goldberg, Scott Steiner, Jeff Jarrett, Buff Bagwell, Eric Bischoff, and Tony Schiavone were conspicuous by their absence and/or irrelevance in almost all categories, though many insiders do think the WWF should pursue Jarrett.

Set aside a couple of hours and examine the results closely. Pro wrestling won't have another year like this for a long time.

1. WHO IS POUND-FOR-POUND, THE BEST WRESTLER IN THE WORLD?

Neck and spinal injuries had sidelined Chris Benoit for more than seven months as of press time, thereby preventing "The Canadian Crippler" from dominating this category for a third year. Rob Van Dam, whom ECW enthusiasts long touted as the best pound-for-pound wrestler in the world, has finally earned that recognition from insiders throughout the business. Chris Jericho, who experienced the most sudden rise to main-event status in 2001, placed in this category for the first time, at number two. Kurt Angle held steady with 17 percent. The most interesting placer is William Regal, who, at 257 pounds, is overweight by a stone or two. His strong fifth-place finish, just behind former manservant Tajiri, indicates an overwhelming respect for his toughness and mat skills throughout the industry.

Rob Van Dam	**22%**
Chris Jericho	**20%**
Kurt Angle	**17%**
Tajiri	**9%**
William Regal	**8%**
Low-Ki	**4%**
Christian	**3%**
Others	**17%**



Your new winner: RVD

Y2J does have two belts

2. IF YOU COULD WATCH THE MATCHES OF ONLY ONE WRESTLER, WHOM WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

Traditionally, wrestlers from smaller promotions tend to score higher in this category. Why? Some of it might have to do with the cult followings developed by smaller companies, with followers of those promotions wanting to think they're part of something special. Or it might be because smaller promotions are breeding grounds of innovation in this business. This year was different. The very mainstream Triple-H earned the definitive edge in this category, outscoring Steve Austin by five percentage points. Did Triple-H's absence make insiders' hearts grow fonder? "With him gone, everyone realized Triple-H was the glue of the WWF, that he made a lot of people look good," wrote one respondent. Rob Van Dam and Tajiri, former first-placers in this category, maintained their strong ECW followings.

Triple-H	**24%**
Steve Austin	**19%**
Rob Van Dam	**18%**
The Rock	**15%**
Kurt Angle	**12%**
Tajiri	**4%**
The Hardy Boyz	**3%**
Others	**5%**

Don't miss a Triple-H match

Rock has great ones, too

3. WOULD YOU JUDGE WRESTLING'S IMMEDIATE FUTURE AS HOPELESS, CLOUDY, STATUS QUO, PROMISING, OR SHINING?

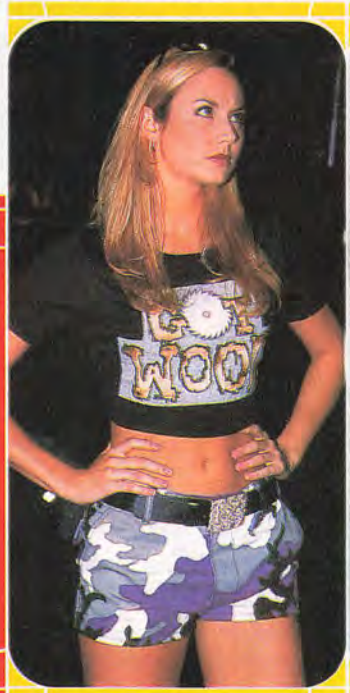
Status quo	33%
Cloudy	26%
Promising	24%
Shining	15%
Hopeless	2%

Given the likelihood of the WWF splitting into two promotions, and the NWO's entry into the Federation, everyday fans should be excited about the next several months. Keep in mind, however, that *PWI* is polling insiders, not fans. For many of the respondents, their livelihood depends on their ability to obtain and keep jobs within the industry. The demise of WCW and ECW soured many of their opportunities. That explains the mixed forecast. Slightly more people are optimistic about this year, while there are many who are frustrated by the business. The more objective opinions suggest that as long as the WWF scores television ratings in the 4.0 to 5.0 range, business throughout the industry will be at least fairly healthy.

4. WHO IS WRESTLING'S SEXIEST WOMAN?

Stacy Keibler edged out Trish Stratus by four percent to earn recognition as wrestling's sexiest woman. How did Keibler beat Stratus, who boasts the WWF women's title and a much bigger bust size? This respondent said it best: "Big boobs and curvy hips are appealing, and I'd say Trish has the best of the bunch, but Stacy's long legs and all-American looks give her an originality that can be supplied only by Mother Nature. Away from the Dudleys, she's probably nice enough to take home to Mom." Lita finished just below the 2000 winner, Torrie Wilson, at 14 percent, indicating she was hurt by her inactivity in late-2001 and early-2002. Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley ranked in this category for the first time, despite her evil and grating persona. Occasional Ohio Valley Wrestling referee Donna Derring earned four percent. She looks really good in stripes.

Stacy Keibler	23%
Trish Stratus	19%
Torrie Wilson	17%
Lita	14%
Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley	9%
Jasmin St. Claire	5%
Donna Derring	4%
Mighty Molly	2%
Terri	2%
Others	5%



Oh yes, Stacy!

Jasmin has that exotic look

5. WHO IS WRESTLING'S SEXIEST MAN?

The Rock	34%
Triple-H	24%
Val Venis	20%
Rob Van Dam	10%
Edge	6%
Others	6%

While there never seems to be a lack of sexy women, votes in this category tend to go for a limited number of candidates. The fact that most respondents are male might be a factor, because men aren't likely to have distinctive tastes when it comes to choosing individuals of the same sex. The Rock had a comfortable 10 percent lead at the top of the polling this year, while Triple-H surged by 12 percentage points. Val Venis made a comeback in the late balloting, due to his appearance in the Royal Rumble, with a respectable 20 percent. That is his first placement since 2000, when he earned a mere four percent. Rob Van Dam's mainstream exposure helped him this year, while Edge dropped by seven points despite his heavy push. Maybe there are too many long-haired Canadians in the WWF for him to stand out.

6. WHO IS WRESTLING'S BEST TV ANNOUNCER?

Perhaps next year's question should be, "Who is wrestling's best TV announcer … besides Jim Ross?" Only that could make it more competitive. Ross was recognized as the industry's best commentator for the fourth consecutive year. He scored 56 percent, 11 points higher than 2001. It's a testament to Ross that his only serious competition (and that's a stretch) was Jerry Lawler, who dropped eight percentage points to 16 percent. Notice the decent support for Paul Heyman, who approached color commentary in a much different way than Lawler. He probably would have earned more votes if he weren't forced to replace the popular "King." Those who watch Ohio Valley's TV show regularly obviously appreciate Jim Cornette's style. Meanwhile, Michael Cole is receiving the same kind of negative reaction that Tony Schiavone has in recent years, by virtue of his straight-laced blandness. "T-Bone" himself had enough support to garner one percent, due to his XWF stint.

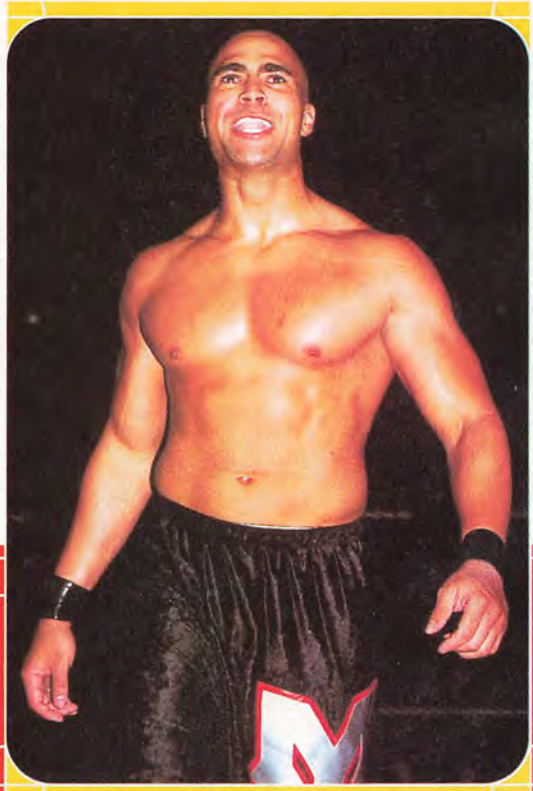
Jim Ross	**55%**
Jerry Lawler	**16%**
Paul Heyman	**7%**
Jim Cornette	**5%**
Michael Cole	**4%**
Tazz	**4%**
Al Snow	**3%**
Jonathan Coachman	**2%**
Tony Schiavone	**1%**
Others	**3%**

The best team bar none

7. WOULD YOU GAUGE THE GENERAL PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION OF WRESTLING AS POOR, MEDIOCRE, GOOD, OR EXCELLENT?

The figures didn't budge much from last year, although there was an upswing in the "excellent" category. The sentiment among many respondents was that the people who understood wrestling—meaning that they watch wrestling programs at least occasionally—had a high degree respect for wrestlers and the jobs they do. *Tough Enough*, in particular, educated the general public concerning the work ethic and athleticism required of wrestlers. Nevertheless, there is a large number of individuals who have never given (and likely never will give) wrestling a chance. Wrote one respondent: "The crowd that never watches wrestling dismisses it as play-acting where no one gets hurt, with guys who have big muscles and just hit each other with chairs, and as a business that exploits women. A certain segment of the population will never appreciate it."

Mediocre	**29%**
Good	**28%**
Excellent	**26%**
Poor	**17%**



Maven helped with public perception

8. WOULD YOU DESCRIBE MAINSTREAM COVERAGE OF WRESTLING AS POOR, MEDIOCRE, GOOD, OR EXCELLENT?

Good	**31%**
Mediocre	**31%**
Excellent	**26%**
Poor	**12%**

These numbers didn't change much from last year, either, except the "good" rating dropped by two points, just enough to cause a statistical tie with "mediocre." Sports journalists had a ball laughing at the XFL in the early part of 2001, and financial analysts cautioned that WWFE stock might be risky with a looming recession. But whenever WWF stars were guests on talk shows, such as *The Tonight Show* and *Live With Regis & Kelly*, hosts were downright giddy to have them on their programs. The PTC campaign against the WWF waned considerably, and there were no high-profile wrestling deaths, sexual harassment charges, or steroid scandals. Many respondents who rated mainstream coverage as "excellent" cited the overwhelmingly favorable reviews of The Rock's performance in *The Mummy Returns*.

9. WHICH FORMER WCW OR ECW WRESTLER SHOULD THE WWF SIGN?

Had we polled our insiders at the end of, say, November, rather than the end of January, Kevin Nash, Scott Hall, and Hulk Hogan probably would have received a lot of support in this category. But news of an NWO reunion in the WWF had gotten out before most of our insiders had completed the poll. As a result, Jeff Jarrett was a pretty clear-cut choice. Many respondents cited his versatility, maturity, and relative youth. Scott Steiner, once considered the industry's hottest free agent, is now considered a question mark in light of his accumulation of debilitating injuries, but 22 percent of our insiders think he'd be worth the risk. The Sandman, it was believed, could add some rowdiness to the WWF, although many conceded that Steve Austin might resemble his character a bit too much. C.W. Anderson edged out Randy Savage by one percent, with his supporters contending he is wrestling's most underutilized and underappreciated player.

Jeff Jarrett	**31%**
Scott Steiner	**22%**
The Sandman	**7%**
C.W. Anderson	**7%**
Randy Savage	**6%**
Super Crazy	**5%**
Steve Corino	**3%**
Simon Diamond	**2%**
Johnny Swinger	**2%**
Others	**15%**

Bring back Jarrett!

10. IS WRESTLING BETTER OR WORSE THAN IT WAS FIVE YEARS AGO?

Worse	**60%**
Better	**40%**

For the first time in the history of the "*PWI* Poll," the majority of respondents believe wrestling is worse off than it was five years earlier. Then again, that isn't as dismal as it sounds. In essence, respondents are comparing 2001 and early-2002 to 1996 and early-1997, which was the hottest year in wrestling to that date. The NWO was at its height, *WCW Monday Nitro* had overtaken *WWF Monday Night Raw*, and there were more viewers, ticket-buyers, and wrestling T-shirt wearers than ever. While the WWF is definitely better off now than it was five years ago, the rise of WCW and ECW in 1996 indicated that pro wrestling's target audience was more devoted—and more willing to spend money—than key demographics of the past.

11. WHICH DEVELOPMENTAL WRESTLER SHOULD THE WWF PROMOTE NEXT?

Charlie Haas, older brother of the late Russ Haas, has earned the most respect among participants in the survey. "He's already been in the ECWA, Memphis, and now Heartland," said a respondent. "Combine that with his amateur experience, and the WWF has another Kurt Angle type in the making." Likewise, The Island Boys—the Haas brothers' fiercest rivals—should get the callup to join Rikishi in the WWF. They finished fourth with 11 percent. Our 2001 *PWI* Rookie of the Year, Randy Orton, hopes he can match and maybe even surpass the success enjoyed in the sport by grandfather Bob Orton Sr. and father Bob Jr. Thirteen percent of respondents seemed to like his chances. Imposing Ohio Valley champion Leviathan gave The Undertaker a tough bout last year, but only three percent of our insiders want to see him promoted next. Brock Lesnar and The Prototype are two more standouts possessing the pure physicality to succeed in the Federation, and although Lesnar might have the biggest upside of all, numerous insiders advised the WWF to take its time developing him and not promote him too soon.

Charlie (R.C.) Haas	**18%**
Victoria	**14%**
Randy Orton	**13%**
The Island Boys	**11%**
Brock Lesnar	**10%**
Steve Bradley	**8%**
The Prototype	**7%**
Sean O'Haire	**5%**
Shelton Benjamin	**4%**

R.C. Haas: ready for prime time

12. WHO IS THE MOST PROMISING CAREER-LONG INDEPENDENT WRESTLER?

What exactly is a "career-long independent wrestler"? It is a wrestler currently competing on the independent circuit who has never had a substantial run in any major federation. That eliminates current indy headliners such as Eddie Guerrero, Steve Corino, Road Dogg, Brian Christopher, and King Kong Bundy, all of whom have enjoyed stints in the WWF, WCW, and/or ECW. Some voters were probably torn between Chris Daniels (who has wrestled in all three of the most recent Big Three) and Michael Modest, both of whom appeared on *WCW Monday Nitro* and were actually signed by the company, allowing Scoot Andrews to squeeze into second place with 17 percent. The same is true of tag team partners Joey Matthews and Christian York, whose supporters were undoubtedly split between the two. *Tough Enough* runner-up Josh Matthews, no relation to Joey, scored four percent.

Chris Daniels	**23%**	**American Dragon**	**5%**
Scoot Andrews	**17%**	**Christian York**	**5%**
Michael Modest	**12%**	**Josh Matthews**	**4%**
Low-Ki	**11%**	**Mike Quackenbush**	**2%**
Joey Matthews	**6%**	**Others**	**15%**

Daniels: best of the indies

Chris Daniels

MOST PROMISING CAREER-LONG INDEPENDENT WRESTLER!

13. WHAT ARE THE IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS FOR THE WWA?

This was a positive endorsement for the WWA, considering the short life of Main Event Championship Wrestling in 2001. Most respondents praising the WWA didn't mention its star power or wrestling action, but instead cited its practical business model. "Australian and European promotions have made the mistake of hyping local wrestlers in the vain hope they will amass the same followings as the WWF stars on TV," said one respondent. "The WWA has taken well-known former WWF and WCW stars and run shows in areas deprived of wrestling in recent years. It's not a bad idea." Another respondent concurred: "I like their wait-and-see approach toward television and their cautious approach toward making a big splash in the U.S. But they'll crash and burn if they directly challenge the WWF too soon. There's no doubt about that."

Will become a permanent fixture	**54%**
Will fold within six months	**46%**

14. IF THE WWA SURVIVES THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, WHAT ARE ITS LONG-RANGE PROSPECTS?

These poll results should be pretty encouraging to the fledgling WWA. While only 29 percent of respondents thought the WWA would become North America's second-largest promotion, it is important to look at these numbers in their totality. A whopping 75 percent thought the WWA would become North America's number-two promotion, remain a healthy competitor, or even compete directly against the WWF. Only 25 percent thought it would go out of business—and just staying in business should be the utmost concern for a new wrestling company at this point.

Will become North America's number-two promotion	**29%**
Will be a healthy, but limited competitor	**27%**
Will go out of business	**25%**
Will compete directly against the WWF	**19%**

WWA Commissioner Bret Hart

15. WHAT ARE THE IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS FOR THE XWF?

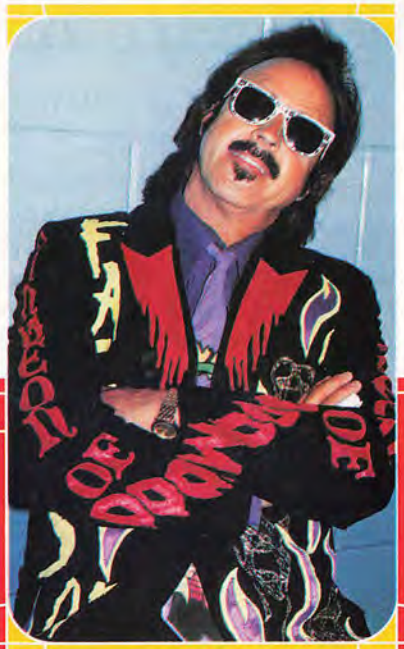
Respondents weren't quite as bullish on the XWF as WWA, and some included specific details as to why. "The XWF built their promotion around Hulk Hogan in the early going, and now it's almost a certainty that he will be in the WWF soon," wrote one respondent. "So it can be argued the XWF has lost their biggest star already." Another respondent said this: "At least most of the WWA's stars were prominent last year in WCW. The XWF has legends like Roddy Piper and Greg Valentine, but those guys' primes were at least 15 years ago." There was an upsurge in positive opinions concerning the XWF as we neared our deadline because the promotion announced a television deal with Clear Channel, with details to come later. Said a last-minute respondent: "With a TV deal, and with young wrestlers like Ian Harrison, Kid Kash, and Drezden, I think the XWF has a pretty good chance."

Will become a permanent fixture	**58%**
Will fold within six months	**42%**

16. IF THE XWF SURVIVES THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, WHAT ARE ITS LONG-RANGE PROSPECTS?

WWA edged out the XWF in terms of immediate prospects, but if the XWF can survive the crucial next six months, respondents actually give this promotion a slightly better chance of becoming a major league. The primary reason is the XWF is already based in North America, unlike the Australia-based WWA. That gives it a head start in a potential rivalry with the WWF. The number of respondents who believed the XWF would go out of business in six months was significantly lower, at just 16 percent. "The owner of the WWA is Andrew McManus. He's a rock promoter and, obviously, a good businessman, but is he committed to wrestling in the long term?" asked a respondent. "Veterans like Brian Knobs, Greg Valentine, and Jimmy Hart work in the XWF's front office. No one can question their knowledge of and commitment to wrestling."

Will become North America's number-two promotion	**31%**
Will compete directly against the WWF	**27%**
Will be a healthy, but limited competitor	**26%**
Will go out of business	**16%**



Jimmy Hart is a smart guy

17. WILL THE WWF RESOLVE ITS CONTRACT DISPUTE WITH DIRECTV?

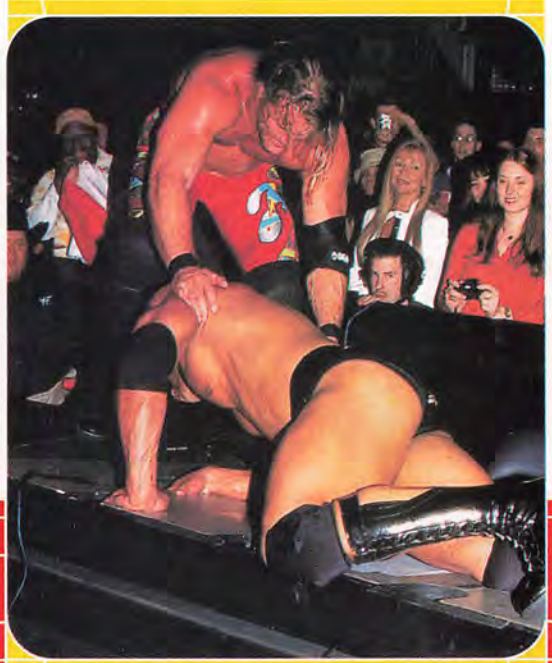
The majority of participants agreed DirecTV would have to strike a deal with the WWF, the most important player in the pay-per-view market. With Dish Network purchasing DirecTV, there is even more pressure on the satellite provider. Dish Network doesn't want upstart satellite providers to make deals with the WWF, which would give those rival companies a distinct advantage. Likewise, the WWF probably doesn't want Dish Network or DirecTV to carry the WWA or XWF pay-per-views, which would give either of the WWF's potential rival companies a boost. A deal between the WWF and DirecTV is too beneficial for both companies (the WWF has already lost several million dollars because of the dispute), and the risks are too great if they don't reach a truce.

Yes	**78%**
No	**22%**

18. CAN THE WWF SUCCESSFULLY SPLIT INTO TWO PROMOTIONS?

WWFE has toyed with the concept of operating two separate promotions since its acquisition of WCW in March 2001, but Vince McMahon's belief that the WCW brand name had lost too much luster and market value postponed those plans. But the idea of *Raw* and *Smackdown* being split between two promotions, thereby compelling viewers to watch both programs to see all their favorites, is irresistible to McMahon. "There are too many WWF guys who can't get on TV, too many WCW and ECW guys out of work, and too much developmental talent in the pipeline not to split into two companies," wrote one respondent, arguing for the overwhelming majority. "McMahon can't afford not to at least try the split. If he doesn't, he has a lot of wrestlers under contract who won't get the time to do much." One respondent was skeptical of McMahon's commitment to such a venture. "The issue isn't whether the WWF can split, but whether it *will* split. It seems Vince keeps finding excuses to delay it."

Yes	**86%**
No	**14%**



Jericho: undisputed champ for long?

19. ARE SCOTT HALL, KEVIN NASH, AND HULK HOGAN A WORTHWHILE RISK?

Here is another example of how the insiders' views are probably different from those of wrestling fans at large. Insiders think these "Outsiders" play too many insider games. Wrestlers who completed our survey were most adamant against the returns of Scott Hall, Kevin Nash, and Hulk Hogan to the WWF. "McMahon thinks he can take the WWF to the next level with the NWO, but it's like saying an athlete can win the Olympics with a severe case of cancer," said a respondent. "He's got it wrong in those promos. Ric Flair isn't the cancer. Hall, Nash, and Hogan are." Some insiders less involved in backstage politics—including promoters, referees, and broadcasters—believe the NWO will provide a crucial ratings buffer that will enable the WWF to split into promotions, and many think McMahon will see to it that none of the three wields too much power backstage.

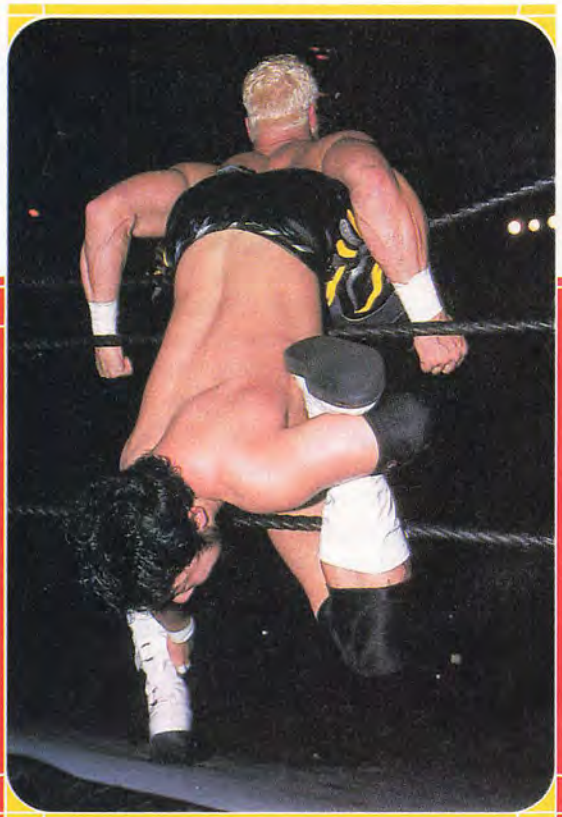
Yes	**55%**
No	**45%**

Would you bank on Hall?

20. WHO IS THE MOST UNDERRATED WRESTLER IN THE WORLD?

Tajiri leapfrogged Lance Storm to gain the number-one spot in this category in 2002. This year, Tajiri is a mid-carder in the WWF, which should be considered a step up from being a mid-carder in ECW. Nevertheless, his greater exposure in the WWF probably boosted his percentage, while an utter lack of momentum has stalled Storm. William Regal, who placed fifth with 12 percent in 2001, gained a percentage point this year. The most interesting statistic in the 2002 poll is that Chris Jericho is considered underrated *despite* his claim to the WWF World title. The debuts of Test and Christian indicate unfulfilled potential that the WWF will probably tap in the future. On the other hand, the presence of former ECW World champions Justin Credible and Mike Awesome indicates how much their stocks have fallen in the wrestling world.

Tajiri	**25%**
Lance Storm	**20%**
William Regal	**13%**
Chris Jericho	**12%**
Test	**6%**
Christian	**6%**
Justin Credible	**5%**
Mike Awesome	**5%**
Albert	**2%**
Keiji Muto	**1%**
Others	**5%**



The underrated Tajiri's tarantula

Tajiri

MOST UNDERRATED WRESTLER!

21. WHO IS THE MOST OVERRATED WRESTLER IN THE WORLD?

WWF World champion Chris Jericho might be the most polarizing figure in the business today. Although Jericho made a strong showing in the "underrated" category—with 12 percent—he led the pack of wrestling's most overrated wrestlers with 21 percent. The Undertaker's heel turn might have boosted him to second place this year, but fan favorite Kane—whose style is very similar—was only a single percentage point behind. The King of the Ring continues to produce overrated stars such as Edge, whose singles push has fallen flat despite its heavy-handedness. Mounting criticism over The Rock's predictable in-ring style landed "The Great One" in fifth place, while Kevin Nash remains consistent with his overrated performances at seven percent. Steve Austin's impressive series with Kurt Angle was enough to help "Stone-Cold" cut nine points off his total this year.

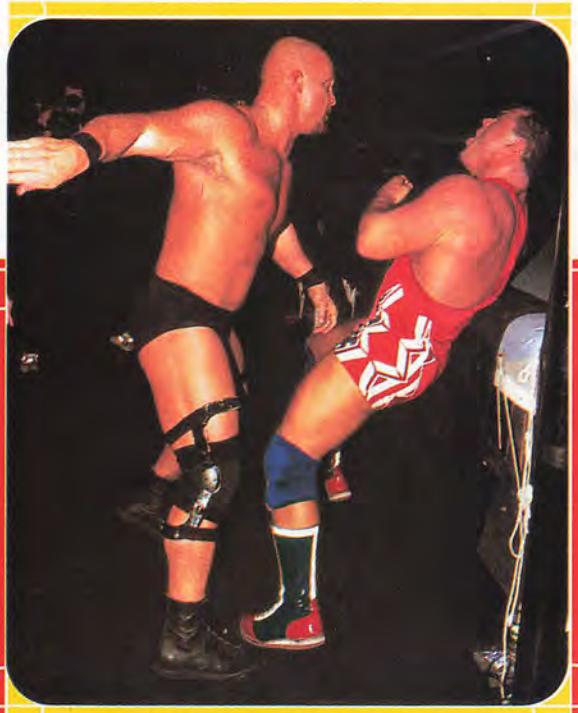
Chris Jericho	**21%**
The Undertaker	**19%**
Kane	**18%**
Edge	**16%**
The Rock	**8%**
Kevin Nash	**7%**
Steve Austin	**3%**
Others	**8%**

Is he underrated or overrated?

22. WHO IS WRESTLING'S BEST BRAWLER?

Steve Austin topped the "best brawler" category in 1998 and 2000, and he has done so again in 2002. Austin did surprisingly well considering that he spent a great deal of time backpedaling and avoiding confrontations for his WWF title. The Undertaker jumped to 18 percent because rough-and-tumble brawlers such as Rhyno and Haku didn't make much of an impact this year. Most respondents favoring The Dudley Boyz cited their TLC matches, although it should be noted they didn't win any of those specialty matches. Perennial brawlers The Acolytes, Kane, and Big Bossman made strong showings, but didn't have many accomplishments to brag about. Former HWA tag team champions The Island Boys debuted this year, and a surprise placer was Bull Buchanan. He's really crackin' heads in Ohio Valley. Bossman must be proud.

Steve Austin	**25%**
The Undertaker	**18%**
The Dudley Boyz	**17%**
The Acolytes	**15%**
Kane	**12%**
Big Bossman	**4%**
The Island Boys	**3%**
Bull Buchanan	**1%**
Others	**5%**



Don't brawl with Austin

23. WHO GIVES THE BEST INTERVIEWS?

What?! That one word helped Steve Austin leap nine percentage points into the number-one position. The *"What?!"* phenomenon has done a lot for Austin's interaction with the fans at live shows. The Rock received about the same number of votes as last year, but was yet again criticized for being predictable at times. Ric Flair, who topped this list in 1999, is natural for authoritative big mouth roles such as co-owner, CEO, president, and commissioner. Ditto for Vince McMahon. Triple-H received the most votes last year, but his long absence contributed to his number-five slot in 2002. Scott Steiner could be heard across the Atlantic Ocean when he told British fans that soccer was "a woman's game." The Acolytes also made an unexpected appearance. Remarked one respondent: "I just like how Faarooq says 'Damn!' at the end of interviews."

Steve Austin	**22%**
The Rock	**14%**
Ric Flair	**13%**
Vince McMahon	**12%**
Triple-H	**9%**
Kurt Angle	**9%**
Scott Steiner	**5%**
Christian	**5%**
The Acolytes	**2%**
Others	**9%**

24. WHICH McMAHON SHOULD BE FEATURED PROMINENTLY ON TV?

Vinnie Mac still has the magic. He should, considering his 30 years of broadcasting experience. McMahon's ability to play such a convincing villain on television demonstrates why he emerged to become the most successful promoter of all-time. He understands the intricacies of character and storyline development, along with having the ability to interact with crowd responses in an instant. Stephanie is equally convincing as the shrieking brat. "Her scrunched up pouty lip does the trick," said a respondent. "Stephanie's face, if not her intelligence, is the future of the WWF." Another participant observed that Shane is too overbearing for TV roles, but "kicks butt on pay-per-views." The consensus was that Linda should stay in the boardroom. Wrote one respondent: "It reminds me of my mom speaking in front of the PTA and embarrassing herself." Quite frankly, we were surprised that only 13 percent of insiders wanted to see no McMahon featured prominently.

Vince McMahon	**47%**
Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley	**26%**
Shane McMahon	**14%**
No McMahon	**13%**

The top two McMahons

25. WHO IS THE MOST DANGEROUS WRESTLER?

"Stone-Cold" toppled Scott Steiner as the most dangerous wrestler, with the semi-active former WCW World champion dropping to only two percent. "Steve Austin dominates and humiliates anyone he's after—and that's the bottom line," commented one respondent. While The Dudley Boyz have been criticized for going stale from a storyline standpoint, their body count continues to rise in the WWF. Ohio Valley champion Leviathan achieved a relatively high percentage, despite the fact he's never been on national television. And Rob Van Dam busted too many lips with the Van Daminator to go unnoticed this year.

Steve Austin	**21%**
The Dudley Boyz	**20%**
The Acolytes	**18%**
The Undertaker	**15%**
Kane	**9%**
Leviathan	**5%**
The Big Show	**3%**
Scott Steiner	**2%**
Rob Van Dam	**2%**
Others	**5%**

26. WHO IS THE WWF'S MOST PROMISING NEW STAR?

PWI received a few phone calls and e-mails asking for a clarification of this question. To be specific, we were asking respondents to choose from the talent pool within the WWF major league, not laid-off Alliance members or developmental wrestlers. In addition, the candidates should have strong upside potential. In the opinion of many respondents, *Tough Enough* winner Maven was that person. And why not? He gets good crowd reactions and nearly beat Chris Jericho for the WWF title in January. Stacy Keibler finished a close second. She has proven to be one of the key acquisitions in the WCW sale. Chuck Palumbo was a top challenger, along with veteran Billy Gunn, to WWF World tag team champions Spike Dudley and Tazz. And unlike other placers in this category, Palumbo possessed experience, a great physique, and plenty of raw in-ring potential. The Chuck and Billy gimmick isn't the most inspired of all-time, but perhaps they can be more than a modern-day Skip and Zip.

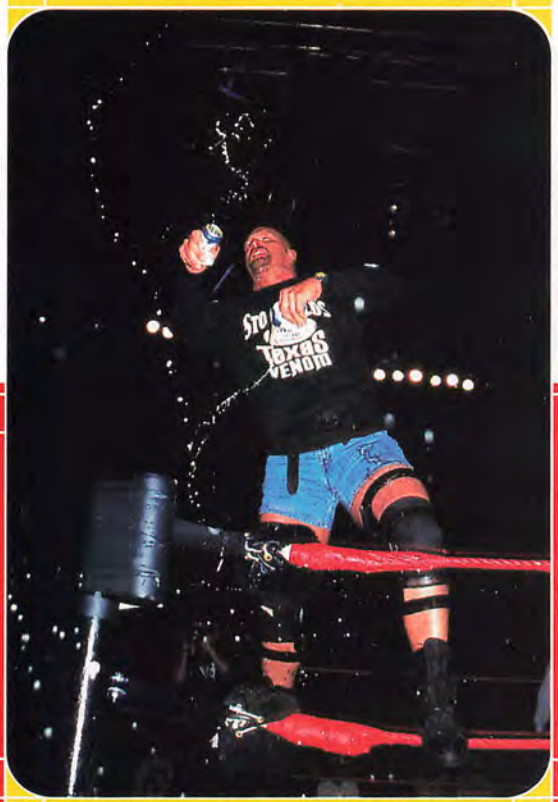
Maven	**23%**
Stacy Keibler	**20%**
Chuck Palumbo	**18%**
Jazz	**14%**
Torrie Wilson	**12%**
The Hurricane	**9%**
Others	**4%**

A promising new dropkick

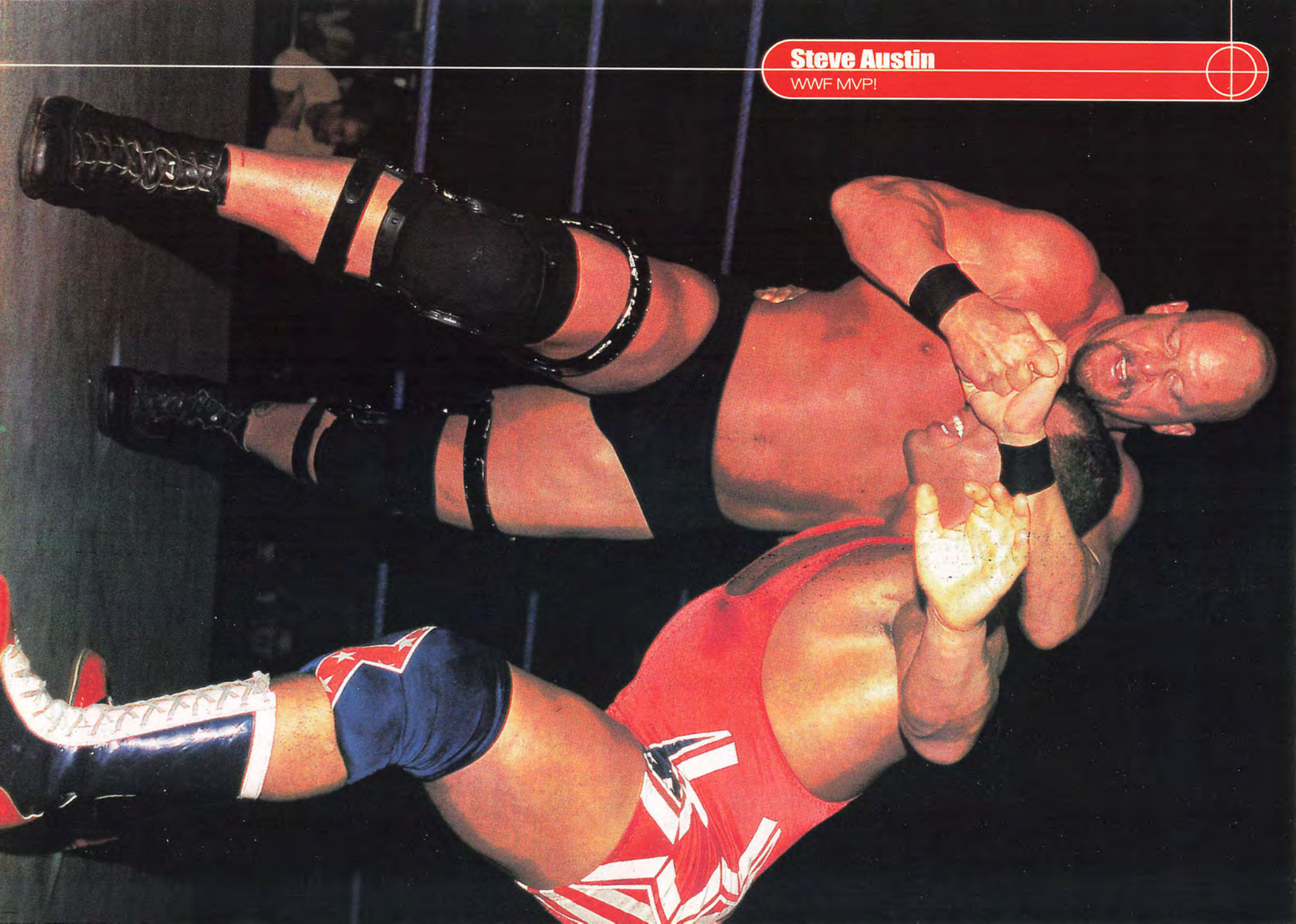
27. WHO WAS THE WWF MVP OF 2001?

The last 12 months saw "Stone-Cold" display a comic wit and versatility not seen since his days as "Stunning" Steve Austin in WCW. Although Austin was a heel for seven months last year, he became even more versatile and entertaining. That's quite a statement, considering his previous babyface run was the most lucrative in history. Many respondents said they were happy Austin retained some of that wit when he became a fan favorite again in November 2001. Nearly as many respondents were adamant that Kurt Angle was the WWF's most valuable player. "Kurt Angle was named Wrestler of the Month four times in this year's *Wrestling Annual,* for goodness sake!" exclaimed a respondent. "Doesn't that qualify him for MVP?"

Steve Austin	**24%**
Kurt Angle	**22%**
The Rock	**15%**
Chris Jericho	**14%**
Rob Van Dam	**11%**
Booker T	**5%**
Jim Ross	**3%**
Others	**6%**



A toast to the MVP



Steve Austin

WWF MVP!

28. AT PRESS TIME, WWFE STOCK WAS SELLING AT $14.27 PER SHARE. WHERE DO YOU SEE WWFE STOCK A YEAR FROM NOW?

It's likely that some of our respondents lost money on WWFE stock this year. In the 2001 poll, a total of 61 percent thought the stock would remain "about the same" or "double" in price. The U.S. recession, XFL debacle, and September 11 attacks drove the stock down to almost half of what it was before. Only 20 percent were on target last year. Judging from the 2002 poll numbers, most respondents believe WWFE stock has stabilized to a fair-market price. "All stocks were artificially high last year, including the WWF's," noted a financially savvy respondent. "With the beginnings of an economic recovery close at hand, WWFE investors can expect some singles and doubles; they just shouldn't count on any home runs."

About the same	**58%**
Half what it is now	**21%**
Double	**11%**
Less than half	**9%**
Triple	**1%**

29. AT PRESS TIME, *RAW* AND *SMACKDOWN* WERE AVERAGING NIELSEN RATINGS OF 4.6 AND 4.2, RESPECTIVELY. WHERE DO YOU SEE THOSE RATINGS A YEAR FROM NOW?

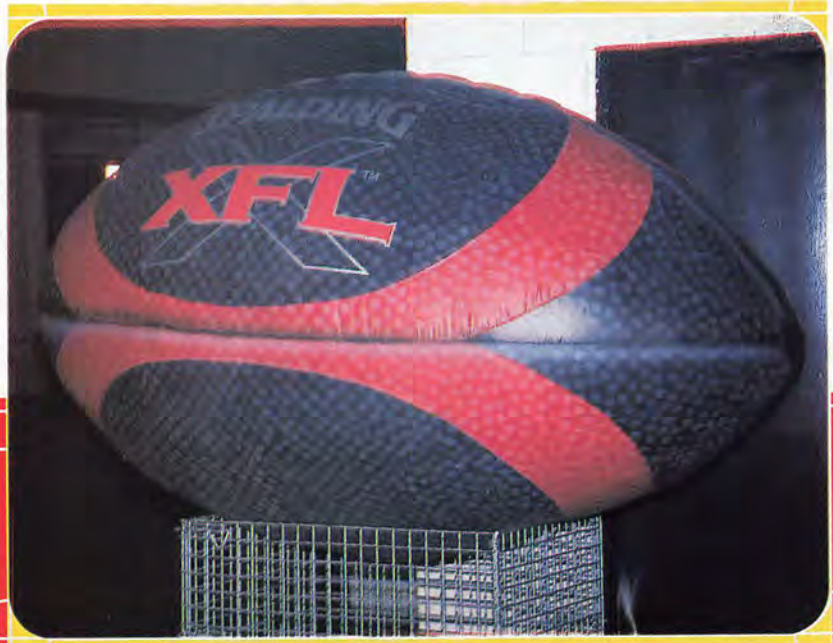
Respondents were optimistic about the WWF's future success, with a total of 59 percent believing the respective ratings for *Raw* and *Smackdown* would increase in the coming year. Only 10 percent predicted ratings would decrease by one point, and none of the respondents thought they would drop by two or more points. "I'm optimistic about the future health of the WWF," stated a respondent. "I think it reflects the overall mood in the United States. Most people think the economy has bottomed out and is ready to go on the upswing, and the same holds true for WWF stock and ratings. The NWO's arrival and the upcoming split into two promotions should bring only higher numbers."

One point higher	**35%**
About the same	**31%**
Two or more points higher	**24%**
One point lower	**10%**

30. HOW MUCH DID THE XFL HURT THE CREDIBILITY OF THE WWF?

The XFL got plenty of publicity before the start of its season, and even more publicity as its ratings plummeted and sponsors pulled their commercials. The debacle drove down WWFE stock several points. Nearly a year after the fiasco, 87 percent thought it had some adverse effect on the WWF's credibility. "It hurts whenever a business venture goes bad," wrote a respondent who thought it had minimal effect. "The WWF stock still hasn't reached the levels it had before the XFL. But the WWF is still a strong brand name, and I think the XFL is almost forgotten." Others weren't so sure. "Maybe it didn't hurt the WWF so much, but it did a ton of damage to Vince McMahon's image as a smart promoter. I think the XFL failure is what ruined any chance of a WCW show airing on TNN."

Had minimal effect	**39%**
Had a significant effect	**37%**
Had no effect	**13%**
Had a disastrous effect	**11%**



The XFL had to hurt

31. HAS THE INTERNET HELPED OR HURT PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING?

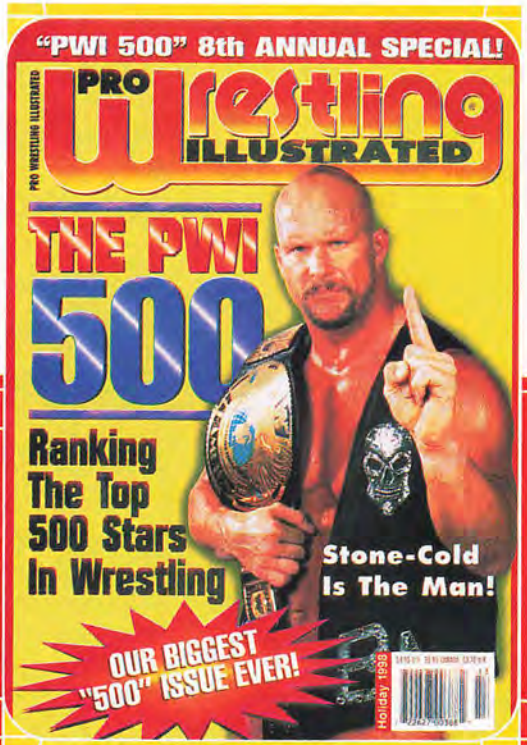
More than a half-decade ago, Vince Russo recognized the importance of the Internet and how its growth would shape the way fans viewed pro wrestling. Internet interaction with fans became a major component of the Big Three's public relations campaigns. Web sites also emerged to deliver up-to-the-minute headlines on happenings throughout the industry. "Everything has pluses and minuses," wrote a respondent. "It's great to get the latest news, but a lot of it is gossip and hearsay. I try to stick with reputable sites." Another respondent wrote that he thinks the Internet complements the print media: "The place to get immediate news or developing stories and match results is by the Internet or hotlines. I wait for my copy of *PWI* to analyze the important headlines, put events in perspective, and separate the truth from gossip." Thanks for the plug.

Helped	**71%**
Hurt	**29%**

32. WHO DO YOU THINK WILL BE NUMBER ONE IN NEXT YEAR'S "*PWI* 500"?

Everyone who made the top six in this category has either been number one in the "*PWI* 500" or very close. Steve Austin was number one in 1998 and 1999, Kurt Angle was number one in 2001, and Triple-H was atop the list in 2000. The Rock and Rob Van Dam reached second place in 2000 and 1999, respectively. The only exception to all this is WWF World champion Chris Jericho, who must be considered a strong contender. "Steve Austin is ready for a monster run against the NWO in 2002, and I still think he should have been number one last year," wrote an insider. "The Rock is a favorite, but I think he will always spend too much time in Hollywood to have a chance. Van Dam is as good a sleeper choice as anyone."

Steve Austin	**26%**
The Rock	**23%**
Kurt Angle	**18%**
Chris Jericho	**16%**
Triple-H	**9%**
Rob Van Dam	**7%**
Others	**1%**


"PWI 500" 8th ANNUAL SPECIAL!
PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
THE PWI 500
Ranking The Top 500 Stars In Wrestling
Stone-Cold Is The Man!
OUR BIGGEST "500" ISSUE EVER!
Holiday 1999

One more time, Austin?

33. WHO IS WRESTLING'S NEXT BREAKOUT HOLLYWOOD STAR?

The movie moguls should get their contracts ready, because our respondents seem sure about this one. Triple-H and Kurt Angle broke away from the rest of the pack for the top two spots. "It isn't a question of whether Hollywood will discover Triple-H, but a question of when Vince McMahon will present him to the studios," surmised one respondent. "Austin had his chance with *Nash Bridges,* and The Rock has done *The Scorpion King,* leaving Triple-H as the other major star without a shot." Another respondent reminded us of the career Kurt Angle wanted before settling for pro wrestling. "Kurt Angle wanted to be an action-adventure star, remember? Just watch his backstage vignettes. He's already preparing for his next role, and I don't think it will be in a pizza commercial, either."

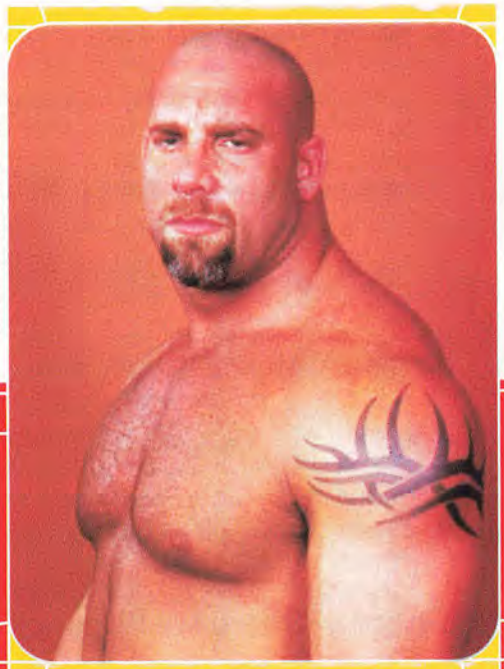
Triple-H	**28%**
Kurt Angle	**25%**
Edge	**16%**
Rob Van Dam	**15%**
Chris Jericho	**8%**
The Prototype	**1%**
Others	**7%**

"Hollywood" Helmsley in action

34. WHEN WILL BILL GOLDBERG DEBUT IN THE WWF?

Bill Goldberg's AOL Time Warner contract expires in 2004. Only 24 percent of respondents think Goldberg will go directly to the WWF at the end of his contract. Another 23 percent are hopeful Vince McMahon will get antsy and work out a buyout with him this year, while 11 percent think "Da Man" will cut short his paid retirement in 2003. "I don't see this stretching beyond 2004, because Goldberg will reach the age when he won't want to put his body through the grind again," wrote a respondent. No doubt Goldberg fans are shuddering at the 38 percent chance their hero will never join the WWF. Keep in mind, however, that 62 percent of respondents believe he will sign a WWFE contract at some point.

Never	**38%**
2004	**24%**
2002	**23%**
2003	**11%**
2005	**4%**



When Bill?

35. WHICH WAS THE BEST WWF PAY-PER-VIEW OF 2001?

Judging from the responses, there weren't many subpar WWF pay-per-views this year, and many of them were very good or excellent, but WrestleMania was by far the big winner. In fact, it may have been the best WrestleMania to date. It featured a fantastic TLC match, an emotional battle between Shane and Vince McMahon, a grueling World title match pitting The Rock against Steve Austin, and a wrestling clinic put on by Chris Benoit and Kurt Angle. The massive crowd at the Astrodome loved it all, too. Those favoring King of the Ring mentioned the three-way main event involving WWF champ Steve Austin, Chris Benoit, and Chris Jericho, along with the streetfight between Kurt Angle and Shane McMahon. Oddly enough, no one mentioned any King of the Ring tournament matches. KOTR also outranked pay-per-views with hefty storyline implications, including Survivor Series (which determined the fates of the WWF and WCW), Vengeance (which crowned the first undisputed world champion in 40 years), and Invasion (which featured the first showdown between the WWF and the Alliance).

WrestleMania X-Seven	**57%**
King of the Ring	**13%**
Survivor Series	**11%**
Vengeance	**6%**
Invasion	**5%**
No Way Out	**5%**
Others	**3%**

Triple-H vs. 'Taker at WM X-7

36. WHAT WILL BE THE STATE OF THE WWF WOMEN'S DIVISION A YEAR FROM NOW?

Respondents took an overwhelmingly pessimistic view of the WWF women's division, with 58 percent stating it would be either "worse" or "nonexistent" in the future. Another 33 percent thought it would stay about the same, which suggests it will remain lackluster at best. For all practical purposes, that brings the negative tally to 91 percent. Jazz was mentioned in many of the positive responses. One respondent summarized the opinion of the vast majority: "Chyna was the most accomplished female wrestler in the history of the business, and that division was in a shambles before she left. Only Vince McMahon can make a difference, and he just doesn't care enough about it to make it a big deal."

Worse than now	**38%**
About the same	**33%**
Nonexistent	**20%**
Better than now	**6%**
Fantastic	**3%**

Jazz vs. Trish

37. WHAT WILL BE THE STATE OF THE WWF CRUISERWEIGHT DIVISION A YEAR FROM NOW?

On the surface, the WWF cruiserweight division is in greater peril than the women's division. X-Pac is the WWF light heavyweight champion despite being sidelined with an injury for a few months, and Tajiri is the WCW cruiserweight champion. No unification match occurred at Survivor Series, and WWF matchmakers don't seem to care about having one. Announcers refer to Tajiri simply as "the cruiserweight champion" with no explanation. "The cruiserweight division is in disarray, but I think Jim Ross will keep pushing for it," said a respondent. "There are so many smaller, very talented guys that a cruiserweight division is absolutely necessary. Maybe once the split happens, one group will push the cruiserweights." Many respondents shared that logic and gave high-flying cruiserweights a better chance for survival than catfighting divas.

About the same	**32%**
Better than now	**29%**
Worse than now	**26%**
Nonexistent	**9%**
Fantastic	**4%**

Will both belts be forgotten?

38. HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE ARENA FANS' REACTION TO WWF MATCHES?

Enthusiastic	41%
Incredible	28%
Average	20%
Tepid	8%
Poor	3%

WWF executives hope the renewed enthusiasm among live crowds indicates an upswing in business. Attendance is still not as high as it was a couple of years ago, but the *"What?!"* chant has given WWF events a pep rally atmosphere again. A solid 69 percent of respondents rate arena fan reaction as ranging from "enthusiastic" to "incredible." In regard to the 11 percent describing the reaction as "tepid" or "poor," it's uncertain whether they were attending *Raw, Smackdown,* or house shows, or whether they were wearing earplugs. "Those doomsayers who think the business is going downhill ought to attend a WWF show," said a respondent. "They'll change their minds very quickly."

39. WHO IS THE BEST MEXICAN WRESTLER?

Black Tiger	34%
Dr. Wagner Jr.	17%
El Hijo del Santo	12%
Ricky Marvin	11%
Hector Garza	9%
Super Crazy	8%
Dos Caras Jr.	5%
Others	4%

If there's ever been a clear indicator of AAA's decline, it's our insiders ranking of Mexico's best wrestlers. Hector Garza, the AAA star to garner the most votes, still only got nine percent. EMLL stars Black Tiger and Dr. Wagner Jr. both had great years, and Black Tiger is just beginning to demonstrate how dominant he can be. Another EMLL star, Ricky Marvin, keeps improving, and his frequent visits with the Toryumon promotion to Japan have only helped him along. Rookie sensation Dos Caras Jr. garnered a lot of attention with his foray into mixed martial arts competitions, but make no doubt about it—he's one of Mexico's hottest prospects. His solid amateur background and the help of his legendary father Dos Caras give him an edge over all of Mexico's newest stars. Perennially strong support continues for Santo and Super Crazy, both of whom command large fan followings.

40. WHO IS THE BEST JAPANESE WRESTLER?

For a guy who was considered washed-up not too long ago, Muto sure turned things around in the last 12 months. Easily the most important figure in *puroresu* today, Muto has regained the kind of popularity he last enjoyed six or seven years ago. All-Japan ace Toshiaki Kawada remains a favorite of our insiders, but he's nowhere near Muto's level right now, even though many would agree that of the two, Kawada is the superior all-around wrestler. Yuji Nagata came close to beating Kawada in this year's poll, but not many ballots sent in after his losses to both Mirko Crocop and Jun Akiyama showed support for him. Although he wrestles exclusively for the WWF, a company noted for its inability to promote foreign stars, Tajiri made a strong showing this year. Outstanding years for both Jushin Liger and Shinya Hashimoto resulted in decent support, although both seem a bit past their prime. Cult favorite Shiima Nobunaga of Toryumon continues to win over new fans.

Keiji Muto	31%
Toshiaki Kawada	18%
Yuji Nagata	15%
Jun Akiyama	10%
Tajiri	8%
Jushin Liger	6%
Shinya Hashimoto	5%
Shiima Nobunaga	3%
Others	4%

Mr. Japan drops an elbow

41. WHICH IS THE BEST TOP-ROPE MANUEVER?

The secret known only to ECW fans last year is out—Rob Van Dam's frog splash is the best in the world. Although it's a relatively simple move, RVD's incredible hang time and aerial poise have placed this move atop the list. Not far behind is Dragon Kid of Toryumon fame; his Dragonrana, a 450 splash-turned-huracanrana, continues to impress our insiders. For a man renowned for his mat wrestling skills, Kurt Angle sure has one beautiful moonsault. One of our respondents called it "picture-perfect just about every time." Support waned for the swanton this year, most likely because of the hit-to-miss ratio for the move. Tokyo Magnum is among the handful of wrestlers using the shooting star press, but men like Naomichi Marufuji (of NOAH) and Jodie Fleisch (European independents) didn't win over enough voters over to make the list. Support for Scorpio's 450 splash has been renewed, thanks to several excellent showings overseas that made an impression on those casting ballots this year.

Rob Van Dam's five-star frog splash	**24%**
Dragon Kid's Dragonrana	**23%**
Kurt Angle's moonsault press	**17%**
Hector Garza's Cancun tornado press	**10%**
Tokyo Magnum's shooting star press	**8%**
Jeff Hardy's swanton	**7%**
2 Cold Scorpio's 450 splash	**4%**
Others	**7%**

Five stars for this frog splash

42. WHAT IS THE BEST ACE CRUSHER VARIATION?

More key wins in key matches can be chalked up to the Stone-Cold stunner than any other Ace crusher variation out there. Steve Austin's winning ways led to overwhelming support for his signature move. The stunner's total in the voting more than doubled those of the next runner-up, the Hawaiian crusher. Taiyo Kea, Keiji Muto's tag team partner, has found great success with his Ace crusher variation. The twist of fate remains fairly popular with our panel, but was almost passed by Gran Hamada's Ace crusher from the turnbuckles, a move he calls Hama-chan cutter. The acid drop, now known as the Dudley dog, is actually a tornado Ace crusher that Spike performs in the corner. Its effectiveness, especially against larger opponents, earned it a good amount of support. While the glory days of the Diamond cutter seem like distant memories, it continues to sustain support as another finishing move with tremendous power.

Steve Austin's stunner	**33%**
Taiyo Kea's Hawaiian crusher	**14%**
Matt Hardy's twist of fate	**13%**
Gran Hamada's Hama-chan cutter	**12%**
Spike Dudley's Dudley dog	**10%**
Dallas Page's Diamond cutter	**9%**
Satoshi Kojima's Koji-cutter	**5%**
Others	**4%**

Stunner for Molly

43. WHAT IS THE BEST POWER BOMB VARIATION?

Our insiders seemed particularly impressed with The Undertaker's new favorite finisher, as 22 percent voted the last ride elevated power bomb the best in the business. "It's not only a breath of fresh air for a veteran wrestler," wrote one insider, "but a crushing finisher as well. It's the best of the bunch, even if he does have trouble getting some guys up for it." The runner-up is the super tiger driver, a move originated in the U.S. several years ago by independent wrestler Mike Quackenbush. NOAH's Mitsuharu Misawa has made the move famous, recently adopting it as his new finisher. The Dudleys' two-man super bomb, executed from the top rope, used to be the hallmark of The Pit Bulls, but the Dudleys' version impressed some of our experts. WWF stars Albert and Chris Jericho both received solid support in the balloting for their power bomb variations. Vader's dominance in NOAH didn't go overlooked, as quite a few of our insiders attributed much of his success to his vicious power bomb.

Undertaker's last ride	**22%**
Mitsuharu Misawa's super tiger driver	**16%**
Dudleys' super bomb	**14%**
Kensuke Sasaki's gamma bomb	**12%**
Tatsuhito Takaiwa's triple bomb	**10%**
Albert's Baldo bomb	**9%**
Vader's high-angle power bomb	**5%**
Chris Jericho's repeat power bomb	**4%**
Other	**8%**

Misawa can power-bomb anyone

44. WHAT IS THE BEST SUPLEX VARIATION?

For the second straight year, Kurt Angle takes home top honors in this category. Two years ago, his fantastic suplexes brought him a King of the Ring tournament victory, WWF gold, and plenty of acclaim. This year, Angle's release belly-to-belly won the most votes from our experts. Although quite a few of our insiders were quick to point out that The Rock's Rock bottom can't compare to Hiroshi Hase's "textbook" uranage suplex, none will dispute that The Rock's version has been more effective in the last year. The Rock bottom scored extremely well, while Hase's version was barely mentioned at all. Wrote one expert: "The Rock has won so many bouts with the Rock bottom and captured so many titles thanks to its effectiveness that it's in a class of its own. When was the last time Hase won a title or a crucial match with his uranage?" The spider German suplex made the list for the first time this year, as did the ocean cyclone suplex, both of which are used most prevalently in Japan.

Kurt Angle's release belly-to-belly suplex	**25%**
Rock's Rock bottom uranage suplex	**22%**
Jun Akiyama's arm clutch exploder suplex	**18%**
Mr. Perfect's Perfectplex	**13%**
Manami Toyota's ocean cyclone suplex	**11%**
Rikishi's belly-to-belly suplex	**3%**
Masao Orihara's spider German suplex	**2%**
Others	**6%**

Shane tries to block an Angle suplex

45. WHAT IS THE BEST OFFENSIVE STRIKE?

"Taking the shining wizard away from Muto would be like taking the stunner away from Austin. It's by far the most important move in his arsenal," wrote one of our insiders. Last year, Muto wore six different title belts, and those wins and subsequent successful title defenses can be chalked up to the effectiveness of the shining wizard knee strike to the head. William Regal may be one of the WWF's most skilled technicians, but his brawling skills are often overlooked by casual fans. Our insiders gave strong support to Regal's European uppercuts, which are simply ferocious. Chris Benoit spent most of 2001 on the injured list, yet his blistering chops were not forgotten by all of our insiders. And this was the first year that a punch made the list; Kensuke Sasaki's incredible *gau* punch is a powerful knockout blow. This single punch to the head is so well-developed that Sasaki sometimes needs no other finisher to put opponents away.

Keiji Muto's shining wizard knee strike	**21%**
William Regal's European uppercut	**17%**
Jushin Liger's palm strike	**15%**
Chris Benoit's chops	**14%**
Mitsuharu Misawa's elbow strike	**13%**
Kensuke Sasaki's *gau* punch	**7%**
Genichiro Tenryu's chops	**4%**
Chris Hero's forearm strike	**3%**
Others	**6%**

Here comes the shining wizard

46. WHO HAS THE MOST EFFECTIVE KICKS?

Former WCW U.S. and current cruiserweight champion Tajiri might be known for some of his intricate and exotic holds, but the simplicity, power, and effectiveness of his kicks earned him the top spot in this category for the second year in a row. Since his WWF debut, Tajiri has been winning plenty of matches with kicks to his opponents' heads. "His kicks carry such an impact that I cringe every time he throws one," an insider confided. RVD has been using a variety of kicks throughout his career, and he often combines them with a well-placed steel chair for maximum damage. NWA champion Shinya Hashimoto and All-Japan's Toshiaki Kawada are internationally known for the precision and power of their kicks. What he sometimes lacks in precision, Test makes up for with brutality; his high kick won over many of our experts this year. Booker T, who once used ax kicks and scissor kicks routinely, almost disappeared in this year's balloting.

Tajiri	**31%**
Rob Van Dam	**21%**
Shinya Hashimoto	**14%**
Toshiaki Kawada	**12%**
Test	**11%**
Booker T	**5%**
Masa Chono	**3%**
Others	**3%**

Watch out for that kick!

47. WHAT IS THE HIGHEST IMPACT MANEUVER?

The Undertaker stands just three inches shy of the seven-foot mark, and when he hoists his foes up over his head, extends his arms, then plants them with his last ride power bomb, the result is always the same. No one gets up from the last ride, and that fact was reiterated by a solid percentage of our insiders. Falling from the top turnbuckle head-first is no fun, either, and Jushin Liger's avalanche brainbuster also got its due from the panel this year. Liger executes a superplex off the corner then turns it into a brainbuster before meeting the canvas. A number of WWF stars made a big impression this year, as Kurt Angle, Bradshaw, Test, and The Dudley Boyz all made the list with their respective finishing moves. Long overlooked, the *uraken*, or back fist, as executed by Japanese star Aja Kong, made the list for the first time this year. Quipped one expert: "There's no amount of money in the world that would persuade me to take one of Kong's back fists."

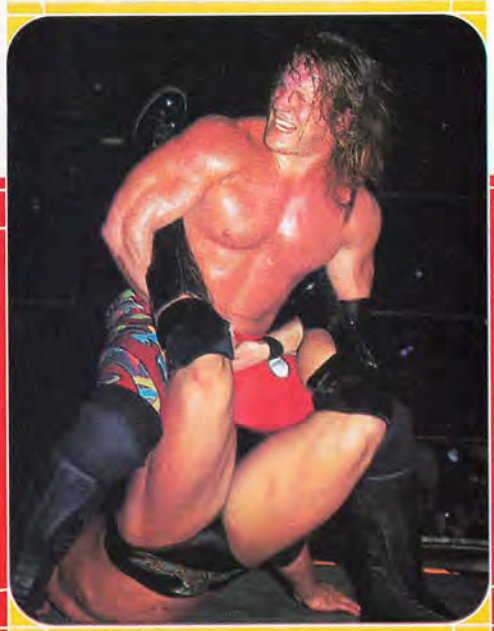
Undertaker's last ride	**23%**
Jushin Liger's avalanche brainbuster	**21%**
Bradshaw's clothesline from hell	**13%**
Dudleys' 3D	**10%**
Kurt Angle's Olympic slam	**9%**
Test's high kick of death	**7%**
Mitsuharu Misawa's super tiger driver	**6%**
Aja Kong's spinning back fist	**5%**
Others	**6%**

It's a long way down on the last ride

48. WHICH IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE SUBMISSION HOLD?

"Winning the undisputed WWF championship has to count for something," one of our voters suggested, "and it's time the Walls of Jericho gets its due." This year, the torture crab variation used by Chris Jericho does get its due, with a clear victory leaving a number of other worthy holds to fight for second. Some new holds landed on the list this year, like the paradise lock, one of Milano Collection AT's favorites. The young star of Toryumon 2000 Project is something of a submission virtuoso, and several of his other holds, like the AT lock, garnered very limited support as well. While Tajiri has never won a match with the tarantula, its popularity is without question. Some of our experts omitted it from their ballots, citing the fact that the hold cannot be deemed "effective" because it's an illegal one performed using the ropes, making a submission victory impossible. Independent wrestler Kid Kruel is doing well with his armbar finisher, the *jujigatamae*, or cross-chest armbreaker. It is an excruciatingly painful hold used by students of jui-jitsu as well as pro wrestlers.

Chris Jericho's Walls of Jericho	**28%**
Kurt Angle's anklelock	**20%**
El Hijo del Santo's camel clutch	**14%**
Rock's sharpshooter	**10%**
Tajiri's tarantula	**8%**
Yuji Nagata's Nagata lock II	**6%**
Kid Kruel's *jujigatamae* armbar	**4%**
Milano Collection AT's paradise lock	**3%**
Others	**7%**



The Walls of Y2J

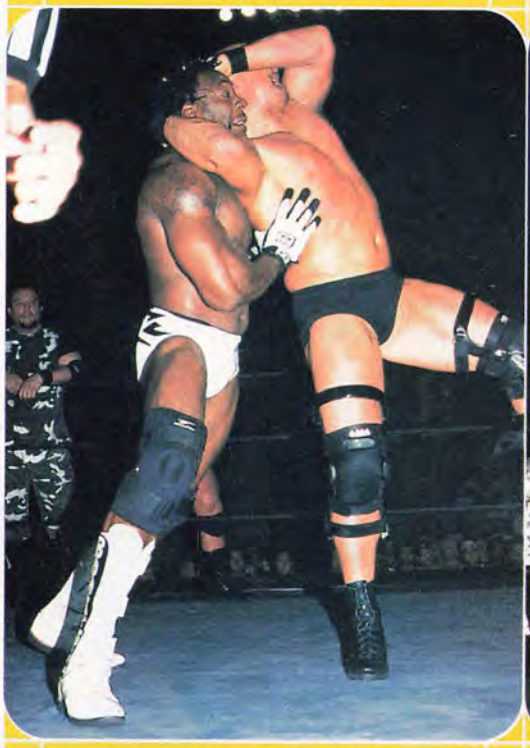
49. WHICH IS THE RISKIEST MANEUVER?

Our panelists seem to think Dragon Kid is one of the best high-flyers in history, and their votes were split almost down the middle for two of his special moves. The Dragonrana narrowly edged out the Dragon ray; both of them are unusual huracanrana variations. The divided support for those two daredevil moves allowed the spaceman corkscrew plancha to rise to the top of the list this year. This plancha is an outrageous move regularly employed by EMLL's Ricky Marvin. To perform the move, Marvin springs to the top rope without using his hands for balance, then propels himself out of the ring, twisting through air like a corkscrew until he lands chest-first on his opponent on the arena floor. The spaceman plancha was invented by Taka Michinoku in the mid-1990s, but Marvin has added his own twist (both figuratively and literally) to this breathtaking move.

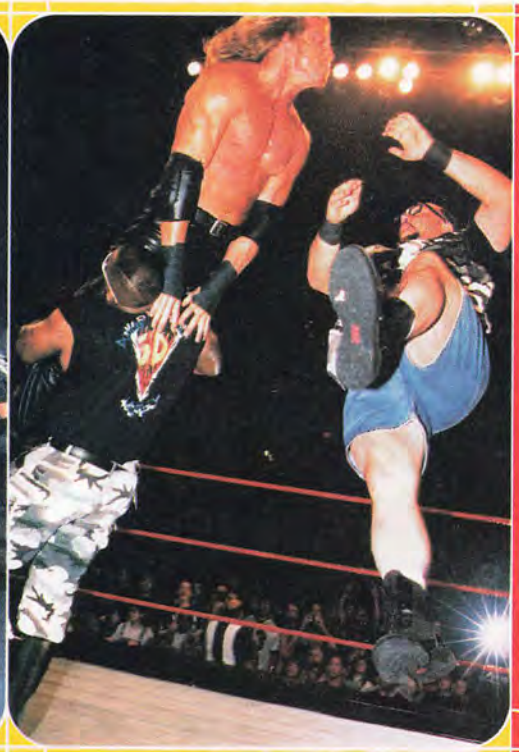
Ricky Marvin's spaceman corkscrew plancha	**23%**
Dragon Kid's Dragonrana	**22%**
Dragon Kid's Dragon ray blind huracanrana	**21%**
Great Sasuke's Sasuke special II	**13%**
Red's Red star press	**7%**
Others	**14%**

50. WHO POSSESSES THE MOST EFFECTIVE FINISHER?

This year, more finishing moves were named than ever before. While some of the top vote-getters were no surprise (the stunner and pedigree have always done well in this category), the Dudleys have garnered tremendous support for their double-team finisher, a remarkable feat in a category usually dominated by one-man finishers. Jericho's submission finisher, the Walls of Jericho, was also a favorite among our insiders this year and was the *only* submission hold to place among the top 10. Black Tiger impressed with his triple-moonsault, a move he utilizes in both Japan and his native Mexico. Many of those who chose the shining wizard over the last ride on their ballots pointed out that Keiji Muto's incredible title run in the last 12 months makes the wizard a decided favorite.



A stunning finisher for Austin

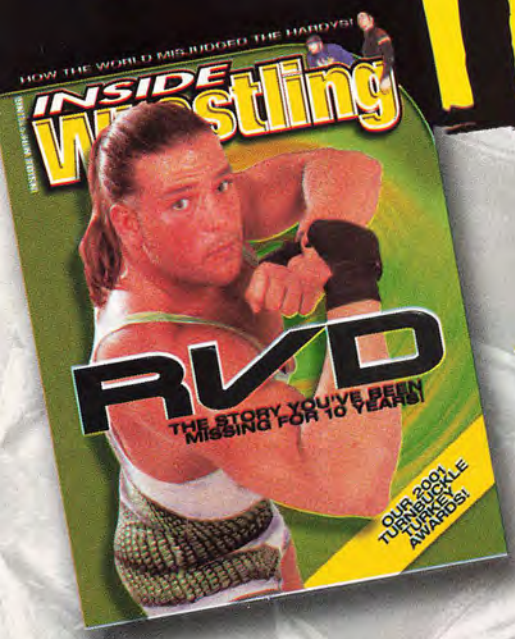


The 3D is stunning, too

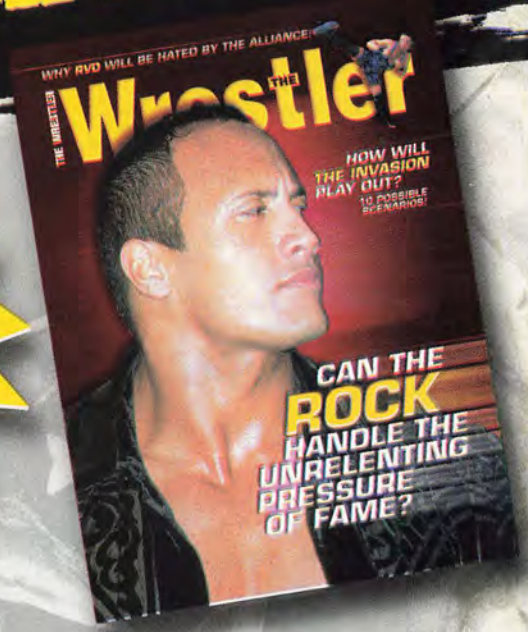
Steve Austin (Stone-Cold stunner)	**15%**	**Undertaker (last ride)**	**10%**
Dudleys (3D)	**15%**	**Black Tiger (triple-moonsault)**	**9%**
Chris Jericho (Walls of Jericho)	**13%**	**Rock (Rock bottom)**	**8%**
Triple-H (pedigree)	**12%**	**Dr. Wagner Jr. (Michinoku driver)**	**3%**
Keiji Muto (shining wizard)	**11%**	**Others**	**4%**

OUR MOST POPULAR COMBINATION SUBSCRIPTION OFFER!

INSIDE WRESTLING & THE WRESTLER


HOW THE WORLD MISJUDGED THE HARDYS!
INSIDE Wrestling
RVD
THE STORY YOU'VE BEEN MISSING FOR 10 YEARS!
OUR 2001 TURNBUCKLE AWARDS!

SAVE MORE THAN $18 WITH A COMBINATION SUBSCRIPTION!


WHY RVD WILL BE HATED BY THE ALLIANCE!
THE WRESTLER
Wrestler
HOW WILL THE INVASION PLAY OUT?
10 POSSIBLE SCENARIOS!
CAN THE ROCK HANDLE THE UNRELENTING PRESSURE OF FAME?

INSIDE WRESTLING & ***THE WRESTLER*** have been a vital part of your wrestling library for three decades. While the content and format of the magazines are very different, both magazines are known for their exciting brand of wrestling journalism, their insightful columns, and their dazzling ringside photography. And now they've both muscled up! They're not only bigger than ever, but they're printed on the highest quality coated stock in full-color!

Clip Coupon and Send to: **London Publishing Co., P.O. Box 2021, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8121**

Please Check Off The One You Wish To Order:

☐ THE WRESTLER (6 issues) for $23.95.
Save nearly $6.00!

☐ INSIDE WRESTLING (6 issues) for $23.75
Save nearly $6.00!

↓SAVE MORE THAN $18.00!↓

☐ THE WRESTLER & INSIDE WRESTLING Combo (12 issues) for $42.00

For Canada and all other countries: $28.75 for THE WRESTLER ($38.95 airmail); $28.55 for INSIDE WRESTLING ($38.75 airmail); $51.60 for THE WRESTLER & INSIDE WRESTLING combination ($72.00 airmail). All orders outside the U.S., international money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow up to eight weeks before subscription is activated. Offer expires January 31, 2003.

5785/11-01/4c

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order
(enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration date: ____/____
MO / YR

Signature: _____

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

A0202R

the business page

By Harry Burkett

The ratings "Game" ... Triple-H's return to *Raw* on January 7 was hyped for several weeks, and the electrifying reaction of the Madison Square Garden crowd conveyed the intensity of the moment. The overrun segment consisted of Triple-H's elaborate ring entrance and the extensive crowd reaction, with the former WWF champ saying just a couple of sentences: "Just in case you forgot, let me tell you just who the hell I am. I am 'The Game,' and you can bet your ass I'm back!"

Kurt Angle interrupted Triple-H's promo and insulted him by announcing his intention to win the Royal Rumble. Predictably, Triple-H retaliated by attacking the Olympian. Most viewers expected something of major significance to WWF storylines, but were treated to more Rumble hype and the umpteenth altercation between Helmsley and Angle.

The WWF's heavy promotion of Triple-H's appearance helped garner an overall rating of 4.9. The failure to capitalize on that better-than-average number resulted in the January 14 *Raw* dropping to 4.5, and even the post-Royal Rumble edition on January 21 scoring only 4.6.

Nevertheless, these ratings indicate there are plenty of WWF fans who are choosing to watch other programs, but will view *Raw* and *Smackdown* if there's a chance of a major event taking place or to find out what happened on a pay-per-view. The New World Order's arrival could break the 5.0 barrier for *Raw* and boost *Smackdown* to its pre-2001 levels. The combination of the NWO and the ever-touted WWF promotional split could make *Raw* and *Smackdown* can't-miss television programs for all fans again.

A Slammy Award winner? Artisan Entertainment has purchased the rights to produce an independent film documenting the life of Owen Hart. His widow, Martha, says that all proceeds will be donated to the Owen Hart Foundation, a non-profit charity organization she established in her husband's memory. The movie is expected to focus on the Hart wrestling dynasty, Owen's relationship with Martha and his children, and the circumstances of his fatal fall at a WWF pay-per-view in 1999.

"There's a lot of mystery behind what really happened [to Owen], and the story has never been told

All the hype for Triple-H's return to *Raw* made a difference in the ratings, as his reappearance in the WWF got a bigger number than Ric Flair's (although the "Nature Boy's" return was a surprise). Still, some fans were disappointed that all they got from Triple-H on the night of his return was another confrontation with Kurt Angle.

properly," Martha told the Calgary Sun. "I want to try to focus on the good that's come out of Owen's death." Martha has agreed to discuss the Owen Hart Foundation in a vignette at the conclusion of the film.

Artisan Entertainment, best known for producing *The Blair Witch Project*, is based in Santa Monica, California. Filming should begin in the spring and conclude by the end of 2003. It should be in selected theaters by mid-2004. Currently, Martha is collaborating with *Calgary Sun* sportswriter Eric Francis to write a book about her husband. That is scheduled for release in the fall of 2003.

The XWF wows NATPE Convention ... The Xtreme Wrestling Federation unveiled an elaborate booth at the National Association of Television Production Executives' annual gathering at the Las Vegas Convention Center. The four-day event gave distributors an opportunity to sell their programs to producers and television stations from across the United States.

In addition to erecting a ring for live demonstrations, the XWF aired its 10 hours of taped programming from Universal Studios on a large screen. Among the stars who appeared at the booth and for autograph signings were Roddy Piper, The Road Warriors, The Nasty Boys, Greg Valentine, Jim Duggan, Rena Mero, Jimmy Hart, The Demon, Hail, Ian Harrison, and the X-Girls.

The booth was said to have impressed many television executives. Sources close to the XWF insist the group is close to sealing a deal with a national cable network, possibly FX.

And in this corner ... Former ring announcer Gary Michael Cappetta is set to recount his 21-year career through a unique multimedia stage presentation, titled *Bodyslams And Beyond,* in a 20-city tour. The show is based on his autobiography, *Bodyslams! Memoirs Of A Wrestling Pitchman.*

Chris Perry Sports and Entertainment Productions will use giant-screen video footage and audio clips to complement Cappetta's reminiscences. If Cappetta's book is any indication, he will provide compelling insights into wrestling's most famous figures—past and present—such as Andre the Giant, Gorilla Monsoon, Mick Foley, Sting, Eric Bischoff, Steve Austin, Ric Flair, The Undertaker, Hulk Hogan, Scott Steiner, Vince McMahon, and Shane McMahon.

Producers are negotiating with Bruno Sammartino, Dusty Rhodes, Rick Steamboat, Terry Funk, and Jerry Lawler for possible appearances. A special guest is expected to share some of his favorite wrestling stories with Cappetta at each event. Audience members will be encouraged to participate in question-and-answer sessions.

The Bodyslams And Beyond tour was slated to debut on March 23 at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia.

Former ring announcer Gary Michael Cappetta published a very good book detailing his long career in the business two years ago. Now he's going to offer fans in various cities around the country a chance to see a special multimedia stage presentation based on the book.

WWFE Stockwatch

(For the period of January 1-31)

30-Day High: 14.46 on January 31
30-Day Low: 12.95 on January 16
52-Week High: 21.59 on February 1, 2001
52-Week Low: 10.31 on September 17, 2001

WWFE stock made a significant rebound to reach 14.46 on the last day of January, its highest price since September 11. Higher television ratings, the fading stigma of the XFL, excitement over WrestleMania X-8, and an improving economy all combined to help the stock.

Another factor might have been WWFE's effort to boost revenue through higher pay-per-view prices and more ventures with outside companies. WrestleMania X-8, which broke the record for total live gate revenue *before* it took place, was to have a suggested retail price of $39.95. Beginning with Backlash, rates for regular PPVs were scheduled to increase from $29.95 to $34.95. Fortunately, WWFE resolved its dispute with satellite provider DirecTV just before press time, which should increase revenue even more.

In addition, Simon & Schuster and WWFE announced the creation of World Wrestling Federation Books, scheduled for launch in the fall. The product line will include autobiographies, fiction, behind-the-scenes guides, illustrated books, calendars, young adult books, and general non-fiction. This is yet another WWF moneymaker for Viacom, owner of UPN, TNN, MTV, and Simon & Schuster.

TV breakdown

Week beginning January 7

Raw (TNN): 4.9

Analysis: Triple-H's return to *Raw* scored 4.9, one-tenth of a point higher than Ric Flair's November 19 debut on the program. His return was a letdown in terms of storylines, considering that Flair's appearance as WWF co-owner had a major impact. But the reaction in Madison Square Garden made it a memorable moment. Earlier, Spike Dudley and Tazz upset The Dudley Boyz for the World tag team title in a hardcore match.

Smackdown (UPN): 4.0

Analysis: Steve Austin vs. Kurt Angle went to a no-contest as several stars engaged in pre-Royal Rumble intimidation tactics. Kane, The Big Show, Triple-H, and The Undertaker either interfered or went into staredown mode. Also, The Rock and Rob Van Dam defeated WWF World champion Chris Jericho and Test. Rock forced Jericho into submission with the sharpshooter to earn the win.

Excess (TNN): 0.7

Sunday Night Heat (MTV): 1.3

Week beginning January 14

Raw (TNN): 4.5

Analysis: WWF World champion Chris Jericho, Lance Storm, and Christian formed a three-Canadian team to defeat The Acolytes and Rikishi cleanly. Booker T defeated The Big Show in 2:36. At the end of the program, Triple-H offered up his first long-winded promo since his return, which Steve Austin interrupted by entering the ring. The ensuing scuffle ended when The Undertaker nailed both Helmsley and Austin with chair shots.

Smackdown (UPN): 4.0

Analysis: Steve Austin and Triple-H re-formed "The Two-Man Power Trip" for one night only in their winning effort against Kurt Angle and Booker T. Angle, Booker, and The Undertaker stood by as Austin and Helmsley shared a few beers after the match. *Smackdown* has held steady around the 4.0 mark, which is slightly better than it was doing during the Alliance era, yet considerably lower than the 4.7 average of 2000.

Excess (TNN): 1.1

Sunday Night Heat (MTV): 1.2

Week beginning January 21

Raw (TNN): 4.6

Analysis: Considering the well-executed hype *preceding* the Royal Rumble, *Raw's* overall rating of 4.6 was a bit disappointing. Vince McMahon foreshadowed the NWO's arrival in a confrontation with Ric Flair, Val Venis and Curt Hennig received lukewarm responses upon their return to *Raw*, and Triple-H and The Rock defeated WWF World champion Chris Jericho and Kurt Angle in the main event.

Smackdown (UPN): 4.2

Analysis: Vince McMahon finally uttered those three menacing letters: "N-W-O." In a maniacal backstage promo, McMahon stared into a mirror and explained why he was about to inject the WWF with a lethal dose of NWO poison. Steve Austin defeated Booker T, and Kurt Angle beat The Rock with The Undertaker's help, to qualify for a top contender's match on *Raw*.

Excess (TNN): 0.9

Sunday Night Heat (MTV): 1.2

Week beginning January 28

Raw (TNN): 4.6

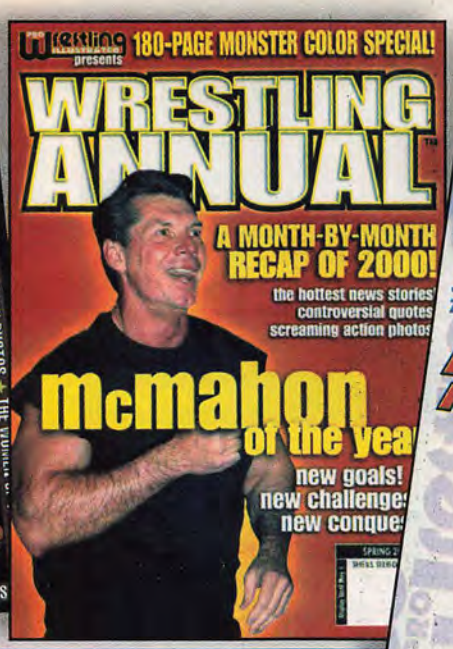
Analysis: Kane defeated The Big Show in 2:42, which was six seconds longer than it took Booker T to beat Show two weeks earlier. Vince McMahon gave Ric Flair an ultimatum: sell his WWFE stock or suffer the NWO's wrath. Speaking of the "Nature Boy," there were shades of Flair vs. Sam Houston when WWF World champion Chris Jericho beat Maven in a surprisingly competitive and entertaining bout. Steve Austin beat Kurt Angle to earn a World title shot at No Way Out.

Smackdown (UPN): 3.9

Analysis: Judging by *Smackdown's* rating, not many viewers believed the NWO would appear, despite McMahon's threat. At Steve Austin's behest, Flair refused to sell his stock to McMahon. Triple-H and The Rock beat Kurt Angle and The Undertaker by DQ in another variation of the Austin/HHH/Rock/Angle/UT/Booker/RVD/Y2J tag team main events. Since Chris Jericho became champ, World title main events on free TV have become almost nonexistent.

Excess (TNN): 0.8

Sunday Night Heat (MTV): 1.2



THE MOST AWESOME WRESTLING MAGAZINES EVER!!!

Pro Wrestling Illustrated presents

The largest, most colorful magazine specials we've ever published are now being offered at unbelievable savings! Order the three-issue SuperSet and receive a discount of **more than 25% off the original newsstand price!**

- **WRESTLING PHOTO ALBUM (Volume 2):** Printed on heavy coated stock, the Album contains more than 140 full-page color photos of wrestling's greatest stars, most beautiful women, and stars that have passed on to wrestling heaven.

- **WRESTLING ANNUAL (Spring 2001):** The first magazine of its kind, this 180-page edition takes a full-color, month-by-month look at Y2K, the most tumultuous year in the sport's history.

- **WOMEN OF WRESTLING (Fall 2001):** We selected the most 100 beautiful women in wrestling history and asked you to rank them in order. 180 color pages you won't be able to take your eyes off!

I'VE GOTTA HAVE THEM! Please send me the PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED PRESENTS specials I've indicated below. I am enclosing $9.95 per copy (plus $2 postage and handling) as payment in full for each issue. OR let me save more than 25% by ordering the SuperSet of all three for $22 (plus $3 postage and handling).

- ☐ **Wrestling Photo Album—Volume 2** ($9.95 plus $2 for postage and handling)
- ☐ **Wrestling Annual—Spring 2001** ($9.95 plus $2 for postage and handling)
- ☐ **Women Of Wrestling—Fall 2001** ($9.95 plus $2 for postage and handling)
- ☐ **SuperSet—All Three!** ($22 plus $3 for postage and handling)

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration date: ____/____ MO/YR

Signature: _____

Please send to:

London Publishing Co., P.O. Box 910, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Print your name and address clearly

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

For all orders outside the U.S., the cost per single issue is $9.95 (plus $4.50 postage and handling) for surface mail or $9.95 (plus $10 postage and handling) for airmail. The cost for the SuperSet is $22 (plus $7.50 postage and handling) for surface mail or $22 (plus $16 postage and handling) for airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

5753/08-01 /4c

the steel cage

By Liz Hunter

THE INVASION. Vince McMahon isn't the first promoter to consider splitting his company into two federations. *WCW Monday Nitro* had beaten *WWF Monday Night Raw* in the ratings for nearly two years straight when TBS requested another two-hour wrestling show for its prime time schedule.

That's when Eric Bischoff and Hulk Hogan thought about splitting WCW into two promotions, with either *Nitro* or *Thunder* being an NWO program. There could have even been NWO heavyweight and tag team champions. Hogan lobbied *PWI* to list the NWO as a separate promotion on our ratings page and to recognize its championship as a world title.

Those plans changed when the New World Order took over *Nitro* on a couple of occasions and ran the show, complete with NWO announcers (Eric Bischoff and Kevin Nash), NWO-booked matches, and the spray-painted NWO logo. To the surprise of Bischoff and Hogan, the ratings dropped both times. Fans wanted the NWO as the invading force, not the establishment. Besides, the NWO had existed for about 18 months at that point, so its novelty was beginning to wane.

Vince McMahon was preparing to split the WWF into two promotions, each with its own show, at a time when the NWO was poised to invade. Sources inside the federation insist McMahon will not repeat prior mistakes Bischoff made regarding the NWO. Apparently, he isn't considering giving the NWO its own promotion and won't necessarily restrict it to one promotion. He might see to it that the NWO has a strong presence in both promotions.

I think McMahon is handling the NWO invasion correctly, with one exception. McMahon himself should *not* be the spokesman for the NWO. It must be Eric Bischoff. Only Bischoff will make the NWO credible by giving the impression the WWF is in genuine peril. The ubiquitous presence of Shane McMahon and Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley, not a lack of star power, was the real reason for the Alliance flop.

Bischoff should appear with the NWO ... and laugh as Kevin Nash power-bombs McMahon off the stage.

LETTER TO LIZ. Aside from the NWO issue, there are many concerns about how the WWF will handle the promotional split. It has been about a year in the making, and fans who suffered through the Alliance debacle are desperately seeking an exciting payoff. One of my loyal readers, Elaine Bastian, shared her apprehension in a recent e-mail. Note the obligatory praise for yours truly in the first and last sentences.

"I agree with 'Dangerous' Dan Tiffin's letter in the April 2002 edition of 'The Steel Cage': that you are *PWI's* best writer. I also agree with his view that Vince McMahon's timid handling of WCW was to blame for its permanent demise.

"Simply put, how can we stop this circus Mr. McMahon calls 'sports entertainment'? Whatever happened to one-on-one wrestling with no interference? Do you know how Vince McMahon will split the WWF? I do not want two circuses. One promotion should be good wrestling and the other can be the same as the current WWF.

"Can you tell me how I can send this e-mail to Linda McMahon and Jim Ross? I am a new Internet user. I've been trying to contact Linda and

The NWO might not stick by Vince McMahon for very long, and it would be okay with Liz Hunter if Hogan and company didn't. She suggests a more intriguing leader for the group, the man who led it when it was in its infancy, a man by the name of Eric Bischoff.

Road Warrior Hawk was one of the headliners for the first round of XWF shows late last year. Liz is very eager to see if the XWF can do well with older but well-known headliners, or if the WWA, which uses a lot of former WCW stars, will have more of an impact on a national (and international) level.

J.R., only to have my e-mails returned. Keep up the great writing!"

I agree with two of your points, that I'm *PWI's* best writer and that Vince McMahon is primarily responsible for the WWF's failure to run WCW as a separate company. But you wonder what happened to one-on-one wrestling with no interference. I think 1958 was the last year that was interference-free. Also, I suppose it's a matter of taste when deciding which is superior, the WWF's sports entertainment or "good wrestling." I see the WWF is still around, while the AWA is long dead. I also happen to believe the WWF offers us plenty of terrific wrestling. And just for the record, I think Linda and J.R. stopped reading my e-mails a long time ago.

WWA vs. THE XWF. As 2002 unfolds, I think the rivalry between World Wrestling All-Stars and the Xtreme Wrestling Federation will be the most interesting. There are two distinct approaches at work here. The Australia-based WWA runs elaborate house shows in wrestling-deprived regions of the world, with occasional forays into American pay-per-view. The Florida-based XWF considers television a top priority and was reportedly close to sealing a deal with a prominent cable network at press time.

WWA features mostly former WCW wrestlers who were TV fixtures only a year ago. The XWF features a number of ex-WWF stars who were even bigger stars a longer time ago. Will WWA be construed as having the fresher talent? Or will the benefit of being associated with the WWF—the only major brand still alive—help the XWF make a greater impact?

These two companies with differing philosophies have equal potential in the current market. The winner of this rivalry will determine the business models of future upstarts. Finally, we have some competition again.

(Liz Hunter can be reached via e-mail at SuperstarLizH@yahoo.com.) □

strange list of the month

FIVE QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE "*PWI* POLL"

1. Will Kurt Angle receive hair plugs this year?
2. Will the Latino World Order invade *Sunday Night Heat*?
3. What body part will Vince McMahon display for the first time on TV?
4. Will The Prototype just go ahead and put on his Sting makeup?
5. How many months before Big Bossman rejoins the NWO?

Do YOU want to be a Professional Wrestler?

Then come learn from the best!

If you've ever dreamed of a career in professional wrestling, then you need to contact the Chaotic Training Center- the country's newest and largest Professional Wrestling school. Learn from industry professionals who CURRENTLY perform in promotions across the country, including Chaotic Wrestling.

CTC
Chaotic Training Center

Chaotic Training Center
North Andover, MA
1-866-685-7173
www.chaotictc.com
infochaotictc.com

MOVING?

If so, please give us 8 weeks advance notice so we can continue to service your subscription promptly. Check the magazine(s) listed below you subscribe to:

☐ PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED/PWI
☐ THE WRESTLER
☐ INSIDE WRESTLING

NAME

OLD ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

NEW ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

EFFECTIVE DATE

CLIP THIS FORM AND SEND TO:

LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 2029, DEPT. 9
MARION, OH 43302

5423/04-01/4c

win, lose, or draw

By Harry Burkett

I'LL NEVER FORGET the phone call. It was about 2:30 in the afternoon, and the voice on the other end asked, "Is Harry Burkett there?"

I didn't recognize the voice, but judging from the accent (people south of the Mason-Dixon Line don't have accents, you know), he sounded like a New Yorker. "This is Harry," I responded.

"This is Stu Saks and I just received your resume. I'd like to talk to you about it."

I recognized Stu Saks' name. After all, I had read PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED and its sister publications since 1983. The magazines had provided a lot of direction in my life, from Craig Peters' pointers on journalism to Matt Brock's insights into wine, women, and growing old. This may sound strange, considering the inherently barbaric nature of wrestling, but the magazines provided a moral compass.

Integrity and bravery were right. Dishonesty and cowardice were wrong. *PWI* was every bit as wholesome as The Hardy Boys. For you squealing teenyboppers out there, I'm not referring to Matt and Jeff, who were having "Hell In A Sandbox" matches at the time. I'm talking about Frank and Joe of the do-gooder detective series of books.

Dan Shocket's pro-heel columns were the only exceptions to *PWI's* established moral tenets, and I detested him for it. I hit Shocket where it would hurt any writer the most: I read his column last.

Most of these thoughts were in my mind as Stu began to explain himself. There was an irony, however. I had not applied to work for *PWI*. I had sent my resume for *Remember,* a pop culture/nostalgia magazine produced by Kappa Publishing, London Publishing's parent company.

Why not *PWI?* Well, after graduating from college in 1993, I applied for a position with *PWI,* citing all my "Correspondents Reports" that had been published in *The Wrestler.* My resume was rejected, although Stu sent a letter encouraging me to get some practical journalism experience and to try again in the future. In the meantime, I became editor of a weekly community newspaper and went on to work for a trade publication in the health care industry. I began to view wrestling as a childhood pastime, no different from comic books, baseball cards, or mowing a lawn for a bottle of pop.

In conversations with my editors

Gangs were the "in" thing in wrestling when Harry Burkett joined the staff of *PWI* five years ago, and not many gangs were more dominant than The Four Horsemen. The NWO was very hot back then, too. My how things haven't changed.

and fellow writers, I've discovered that almost all of us went through "dark periods" as far as wrestling is concerned, mostly during our college years and immediately afterward, when we had no time to follow it. Fortunately for many of us, that occurred during wrestling's lowest creative ebb of the early- to mid-1990s.

When you're reading Plato, Shakespeare, and Melville, it's easy to become saturated with the idealistic arrogance typical of most college students. Am I going to skip the college theater's replay of Kenneth Branagh's *Henry V* so I can watch Bastion Booger shove WWF ice cream bars into his mouth or T.L. Hopper use his plunger as a foreign object? I don't think so.

You could make an argument that Bret Hart was the top wrestler in the world when Burkett penned his first *PWI* story back in 1997, but he, like a surprisingly high number of the sport's top stars of five years ago, is no longer even active today. It's hard to believe how controversial the Goldust character was back then, too.

I couldn't figure out why, but I was compelled to at least keep in touch with wrestling. When I happened to be available, I watched it. Something prevented me from going to the flea market and selling my large wrestling magazine collection. In fact, I continued to purchase *Wrestle America* on a regular basis. Because it was a quarterly in those days, I wouldn't feel obligated to indulge in my guilty pleasure too often.

Nearly three years had passed when I spotted an advertisement for freelancers in *Remember* magazine. I decided to give it a try, hoping I'd have better luck with *Remember* than I had with *PWI.*

I didn't.

"I've got bad news," Stu said in our first phone conversation. "We just shelved *Remember."*

That's my luck, I thought. ***Remember** is just a memory.*

"But I noticed you were a regular reader of our wrestling magazines. If you want, you could send me a few story ideas and we can go over them to make sure we're on the same wavelength. Does that sound like something you'd like to do?"

"Yes, it certainly does," I replied without hesitation. It was a dream coming true. Most aspiring journalists would want to be mentioned in the same sentence as Murrow, Cronkite, Wallace, Safer, Reasoner, Woodward, and Bernstein. Instead, I wanted to share the masthead with Saks, Apter, Lenker, Mankiewicz, Rosenbaum, Brock, and Hunter.

Two months later, I filed my first story in *The Wrestler.* It was a story I had proposed, titled "Gang Violence: Is This The Future Of Wrestling?" I wrote about how the emergence of factions was leading to more violence in wrestling, and how the New World Order, Four Horsemen, Dungeon of Doom, and Nation of Domination were poised to revolutionize the industry, for better or worse.

Pro wrestling was about to enter the greatest boom in its history. The Monday night war was underway. I couldn't have become a wrestling journalist at a more exciting time.

This is my fifth anniversary with *PWI.* So much has changed. In 1997, the WWF was in financial trouble and many insiders doubted it would survive until 2002. Today, the once-mighty WCW and the once-innovative ECW are gone. Shawn Michaels, Bret Hart, Sting, and Lex Luger are no longer active wrestlers. Who would have predicted that? Brian Pillman, Rick Rude, Owen Hart, Terry Gordy, and Chris Adams are no longer around at all. Surely, no one would have predicted that.

Here at *PWI,* Bill Apter, Steve Anderson, Andy Rodriguez, Bryan Ethier, Dave Rosenbaum, Frank Vitucci, and Mark Hill have moved on to other ventures. Frank Krewda, Will Welsh, Dan Murphy, and Jason Conlan have joined the fold. We've gone from 88 pages with some color to 100 pages all-color for regular issues of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED and 116 pages for special theme issues of *PWI.* I consider it an honor to help continue *PWI's* tradition, and even my dislike of Dan Shocket has turned to great admiration. When I flip through back issues today, I read his columns first.

Yes, so much has changed. I've even heard that Hulk Hogan, Scott Hall, and Kevin Nash are forming a group called the NWO and planning to invade the WWF. Anyone interested in a story on gang violence?

(Harry Burkett can be reached via e-mail at HBurkettJr@excite.com.) □

the straight shooter

By Dan Murphy

THE COLUMN YOU are about to read started with an innocent compliment at an indy card in upstate New York.

Earlier in the evening, H.C. Loc—best known as ECW's "Extreme Official"—took a beating at the hands of the massive Rik Matrix. Loc wrestled a tough match, but ultimately was unable to overcome the 80-pound weight advantage Matrix had against him. When I bumped into Loc in the locker room, I congratulated him on a hard-fought match. My mistake.

"And just what the hell would you know about a 'hard-fought match,' Murphy?" he spat. "What does a reporter know about anything? In fact, what the hell business do you have being backstage anyway?"

I wasn't about to debate Loc on the freedom of the press issue. All he wanted to do was vent his frustrations on whomever happened to be nearby; in this case, that was me. As I started to walk away, Loc launched into a tirade.

"What business do you punks in the media have sitting back in your cozy offices and writing about a sport you know nothing about?" he yelled. "You and your rankings, and your '*PWI* 500,' and all your snide little commentaries. You jock sniffers wouldn't last two minutes in the ring."

Any sports reporter who's ever been around an unhappy athlete has heard this spiel before. As long as there's a sports media, there will be angry athletes complaining about being critiqued by people who have "never played the game."

Still, Loc's words stung. A group of wrestlers had gathered in the area, and they were all reveling in the abuse. Once he had an audience, Loc was unstoppable. If I walked away, I'd never hear the end of it. Finally, I couldn't take it anymore. I agreed to get into the ring with Loc.

We arranged to meet at Suplex U, a wrestling school affiliated with Rochester-based New Millennium Wrestling, at which Loc serves as head instructor. I was to get in the ring with Loc and men named Sledge, "Devastating" Kevin Dunn, and Mean Marcos after a training session. I would be their practice dummy. They were free to beat on me in any way they liked. My test was to take all they were willing to give. It was a matter of respect—and both Loc and I wanted to prove a point.

The staff at *PWI* desperately tried to talk me out of it. Brandi Mankiewicz correctly pointed out that these guys could very easily put me in the hospital if they felt like it. Stu Saks made sure I understood London Publishing wasn't liable for any insurance issues. Dave Lenker made sure I had a photographer in tow to record the carnage.

I arrived at Suplex U on a gray Sunday afternoon. Loc had started his session early and was going over back bodydrops with about 15 wrestling hopefuls. Surprisingly, he cordially greeted me when I entered and suggested I do some stretching while he finished class. I watched as Loc and his tag team partner—6'3", 285-pound Sledge (they're collectively known as Hate Machine)—took turns chucking wrestlers 10 feet above the mat. I watched the impact ripple through the wrestlers' body as they crashed

A simple side headlock can hurt a heck of a lot more than most people think. Dan Murphy knew it'd be painful when he agreed to step into the ring with H.C. Loc during a training session, but he didn't know just how painful even doing the most basic of things could be.

After just a few minutes of training with Loc and some of his associates, The Murph was pretty spent. But he took all Loc could throw at him without complaining (and without having to visit a local emergency room afterward). He came away from the experience with a real respect for what wrestlers go through. He also earned Loc's respect.

to the canvas. Suddenly my mouth felt very dry.

Then Loc invited me into the ring.

I awkwardly tried to climb between the ropes, holding on for balance as my legs adjusted to the ring. In an attempt to look like I knew what I was doing, I ran across the ring and hit the ropes—just as I've seen hundreds of wrestlers do over the years. Then came the shooting pain. My lungs constricted; my ribs ached. I staggered off the ropes and fell to my knees. I heard a lot of laughing.

"Running the ropes can be a tough for a beginner," Loc said diplomatically as he helped me to my feet. "Remember, there's a steel cable in there." Oh, yeah ... right.

Loc and I started with the basic collar-and-elbow tie-up. From there, he demonstrated how to gain wrist control and go from a lockup into a side headlock, a hammerlock, a go-behind, or a takedown. He walked me through each move and even allowed me to try them on him. After about 20 minutes, he suggested we put it all together—to go live.

It started innocently enough. From the lockup, I grabbed Loc in a headlock and tossed him to the mat. I grabbed a hammerlock and a half-nelson and tried to turn him. That's when he decided to take me to school.

Loc seized my wrist and applied pressure. Instinctively, I turned away, creating space between our bodies. He rolled through and chicken-winged my arm, driving my wrist between my shoulderblades. I struggled to free myself to no avail. Loc relinquished the arm and grabbed me in a side headlock. With his forearm squeezing across the bridge of my nose, he torqued back on my head and put incredible pressure on my lower back.

Loc then went to a bodyscissors, driving the air from my lungs and applying pressure to my bruised ribs. I felt like I was about to pass out.

From there, he hit moves I couldn't describe. He bent me, twisted me, and stretched me. I was flopping like a fish for the ropes. He worked my legs and hooked me in an Indian deathlock. At this point I was doing all I could not to scream. Finally, he let me up. It was Sledge's turn.

Sledge hoisted me into the air and bodyslammed me. The initial impact wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. It just takes a moment for the hurt to wash over the body. A backbreaker. A shoulderbreaker. Then Sledge delivered a running powerslam.

I never lost consciousness—I just couldn't comprehend where I was anymore. When my faculties returned, I was on my back, and Dunn was standing on the top rope. I helplessly watched as Dunn sailed off the turnbuckles and landed, smashing his elbow into my sternum. I realized how easy it would have been for him to drop that elbow into my throat.

Mean Marcos finished me up. He threw me into the corner—another move that's far more painful than it looks—and rocked me with a series of punches. He hoisted me onto the top rope and, with lightning speed, snapped me to the canvas with a huracanrana. He lifted my limp body from the mat and set me back up in the corner. Loc measured me and hit me with a brutal series of chops. A row of blood-red blisters sprung up on my chest.

When he finished, I collapsed in a heap at Loc's feet. He brought me a water bottle and helped me up.

"It's harder than it looks, isn't it?" he asked. He wasn't gloating—just stating a fact. I nodded weakly. Deep down, I knew that they'd taken it easy on me. It could have been much, *much* worse. Say whatever you want, but wrestling is a damn painful business. Loc had proven his point. Maybe I had proven something, too. □

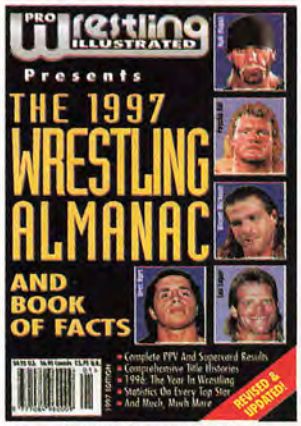
WRESTLING COLLECTORS!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING?

SPECIAL BONUS! Caricatures Of The Stars
Wrestling YEARBOOK
INSIDER SCOUTING REPORTS!
Strengths ... Weaknesses ... Innovative Tactics!
FEATURING 32 SENSATIONAL COLOR PINUPS!

1997 WRESTLING YEARBOOK

Our caricaturist, Jason Conlan, has some fun with the sport's biggest stars. 30 full-page drawings accompany 30 scouting reports. 32 color pinups!

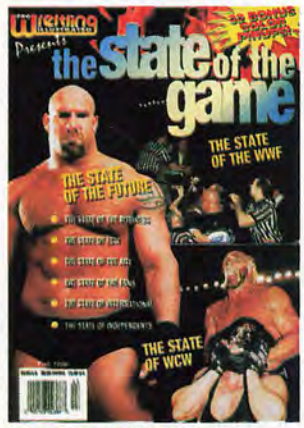

Pro Wrestling Illustrated
Presents
THE 1997 WRESTLING ALMANAC
AND BOOK OF FACTS
• Complete PPV And Supercard Results
• Comprehensive Title Histories
• 1996: The Year In Wrestling
• Statistics On Every Top Star
• And Much, Much More
REVISED & UPDATED!

1997 WRESTLING ALMANAC

The authoritative wrestling reference tool. Complete PPV and supercard results. Title histories. 1996 in history. Stats. Digest-sized. 196 pages!

PWI INTERVIEW SPECIAL (Vol. I)

One select "Press Conference" since 1979, *PWI's* first year. Scott Hall, Bruno Sammartino, Dallas Page, Kevin Von Erich, Ric Flair, and more! 32 color pinups!



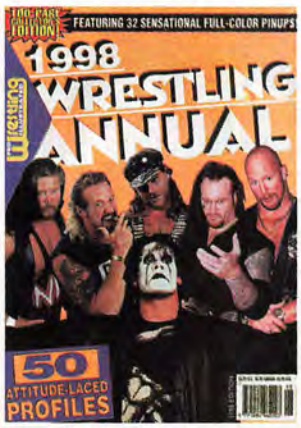
THE STATE OF THE GAME

We break the sport down in every conceivable category and present our expert analyses as to where the sport is at and where it's going. 32 color pinups!

Wrestler Extra
Wrestling
TRUE LIFE STORIES VOL. 3
NEVER-BEFORE-PUBLISHED BIOGRAPHIES! From The Playpen To The Ring!
SHAWN MICHAELS
FRANCINE
CHRIS JERICHO
ALSO FEATURING: The Blue Meanie, The Disciple, Dean Malenko, Al Snow

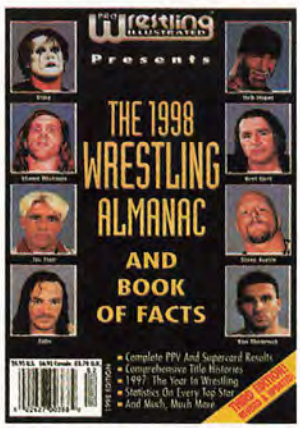
TRUE LIFE STORIES (Vol. III)

What you never knew about Shawn Michaels, Francine, Chris Jericho, The Blue Meanie, The Disciple, Dean Malenko, and Al Snow. Includes incredible photos of their lives before wrestling!



1998 WRESTLING ANNUAL

Butt-kickin', attitude-laced profiles, plus a look at what the future holds for wrestling's top superstars. 32 color pinups!

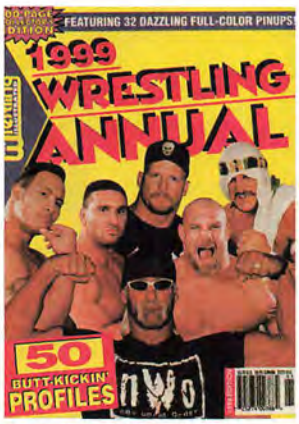

Pro Wrestling Illustrated
Presents
THE 1998 WRESTLING ALMANAC
AND BOOK OF FACTS
• Complete PPV And Supercard Results
• Comprehensive Title Histories
• 1997: The Year In Wrestling
• Statistics On Every Top Star
• And Much, Much More
THIRD EDITION!

1998 WRESTLING ALMANAC

Our third edition, including updates on every section, plus a comprehensive look back on 1997. Digest-sized, 196 pages.

PWI INTERVIEW SPECIAL (Vol. II)

One "Press Conference" for each year since 1980, including Hogan, Andre, Cactus, Austin, Sting, and more! 32 color pinups!



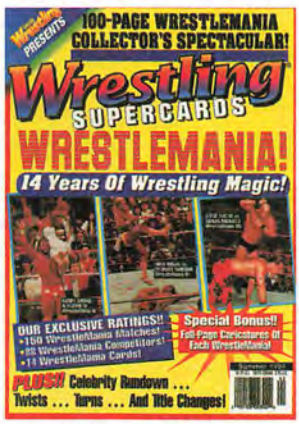
1999 WRESTLING ANNUAL

More cutting-edge profiles of the stars, including a glimpse into their futures. 32 color pinups!

SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S EDITION!
Wrestler Presents The Wrestling INSIDERS
SPANNING A QUARTER-CENTURY!
35 Memorable Editorials!
THE BEST IN WRESTLING JOURNALISM! By The Sport's Most Respected Writers
Our Controversial Views On ...

WRESTLING INSIDERS (Winter '99)

Go back through the years with wrestling's most respected columnists, including Dan Shocket, Eddie Ellner, and Stu Saks.



WRESTLING SUPERCARDS

A historical look at WrestleMania! Ranking all 150 matches, 88 competitors, and the first 14 WrestleMania cards. 32 color pages.

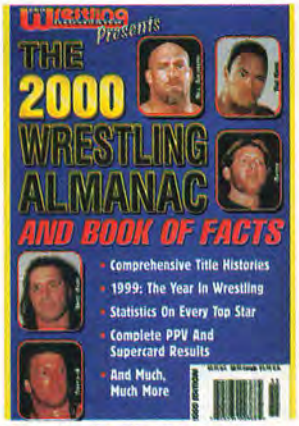
PWI INTERVIEW SPECIAL (Vol. III)

One "Press Conference" for each year since 1980, including Michaels, Sting, Flair, Ventura, Kimberly, Blassie, Luger, and more! 32 color pinups!

We have limited remaining supplies on some of the most popular issues London Publishing has ever produced! Order now—before they're all gone!

1999 WRESTLING YEARBOOK

We turn loose caricaturist Jason Conlan one more time (whether his subjects like it or not!). 30 scouting reports. 32 color pinups!


Wrestling Presents
THE 2000 WRESTLING ALMANAC
AND BOOK OF FACTS
Comprehensive Title Histories
1999: The Year In Wrestling
Statistics On Every Top Star
Complete PPV And Supercard Results
And Much, Much More

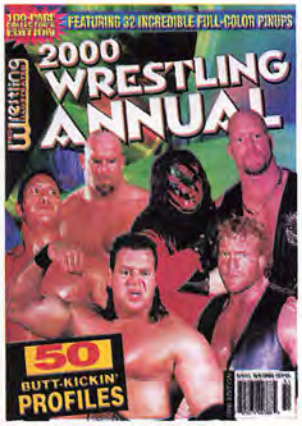
2000 WRESTLING ALMANAC

Our fifth edition includes a history of multi-federation champs, plus updates of our regular Almanac contents. Expanded to 228 pages!

SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S EDITION!
Wrestler Presents
The Wrestling
INSIDERS
THE HOTTEST WRESTLING COLUMNS EVER PUBLISHED!
More Than 30 Classic Editorials By The Sport's Top Writers

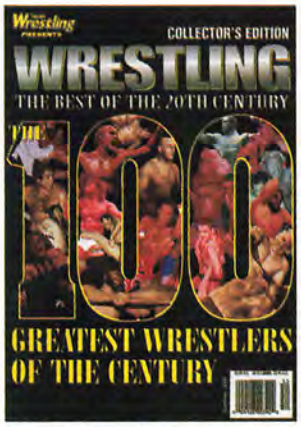
WRESTLING INSIDERS (Spring 2000)

Relive a generation of wrestling through the eyes of London Publishing's highly respected columists, our second edition in the series.



2000 WRESTLING ANNUAL

Our editors sharpen their pens and write up the wrestlers who will make a difference in the sport in Y2k. 32 color pinups!

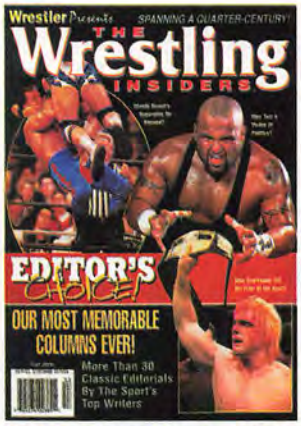


BEST OF THE 20th CENTURY

The 100 greatest wrestlers of the century, as only London Publishing, with our vast archives can present. Special bonus color section: The best of the 1990s.

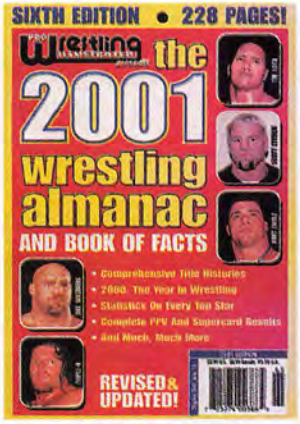
PWI INTERVIEW SPECIAL (Vol. IV)

One "Press Conference" for each year since 1981, including Flair, Austin & Pillman, J.R., Scott Steiner, and Bret Hart. 32 color pinups!



WRESTLING INSIDERS (Fall 2000)

Titles, holds and maneuvers, supercards, tag teams, hall of famers, the state of the game. You want our opinion? Buy the magazine!



2001 WRESTLING ALMANAC

Completely revised and updated, this sixth annual edition contains more facts, figures, and information than ever before. 228 pages!

- ☐ 1997 Wrestling Yearbook
- ☐ 1997 Wrestling Almanac
- ☐ PWI Interview Special (Vol. I)
- ☐ State of the Game
- ☐ True Life Stories (Vol. III)
- ☐ 1998 Wrestling Annual
- ☐ 1998 Wrestling Almanac
- ☐ PWI Interview Special (Vol. II)
- ☐ 1999 Wrestling Annual
- ☐ Wrestling Supercards
- ☐ 1999 Wrestling Insiders (Winter '99)
- ☐ PWI Interview Special (Vol. III)
- ☐ 1999 Wrestling Yearbook
- ☐ 2000 Wrestling Almanac
- ☐ 2000 Wrestling Insiders (Spring 2000)
- ☐ 2000 Wrestling Annual
- ☐ Best of the 20th Century
- ☐ PWI Interview Special (Vol. IV)
- ☐ Wrestling Insiders (Fall 2000)
- ☐ 2001 Wrestling Almanac

Please send the collector's issues I have indicated at left! I have enclosed $7 per issue as payment in full (postage included) or provided my credit card number to charge my purchase ($20 minimum please). Send to:

London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State____ Zip_____

Please indicate method of payment:

- ☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)
- ☐ VISA #_____
- ☐ MasterCard #_____

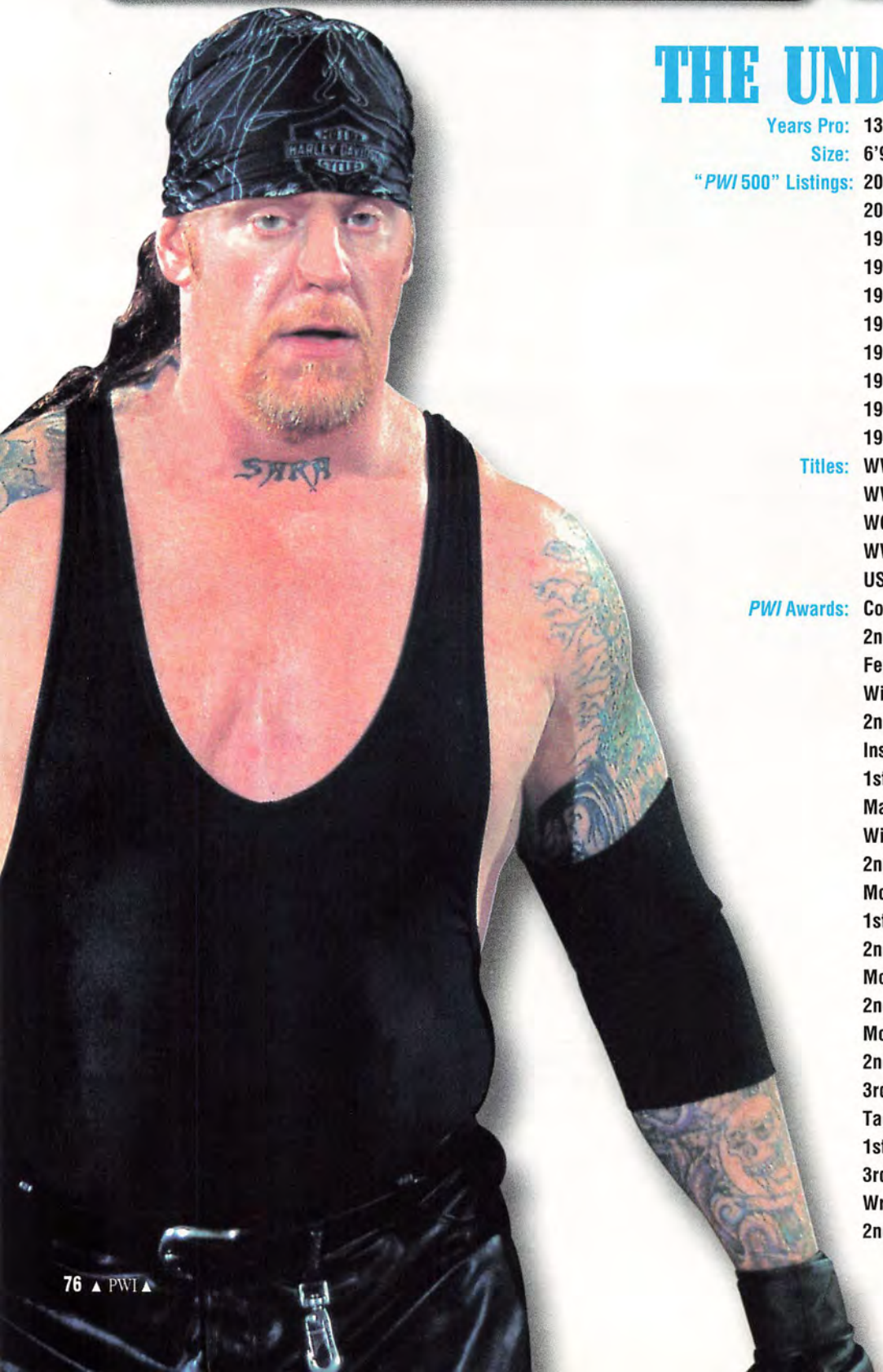
Expiration Date:____/____
MO YR

Signature:_____

For all orders outside the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every issue to be sent surface mail, and $3 for every issue to be sent airmail. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

5629/04-01

THE Wrestling ANALYST



THE UNDERTAKER

Years Pro: 13

Size: 6'9", 328

"*PWI* 500" Listings: 2001—11
2000—Not listed
1999—8
1998—5
1997—6
1996—19
1995—14
1994—23
1993—46
1992—21

Titles: WWF World (3 times)
WWF World tag team (6 times)
WCW World tag team
WWF hardcore
USWA heavyweight

***PWI* Awards:** Comeback of the Year:
2nd runner-up (1994, 2000)
Feud of the Year:
Winner (1991)
2nd runner-up (1996)
Inspirational Wrestler of the Year:
1st runner-up (1992)
Match of the Year:
Winner (1998)
2nd runner-up (1997)
Most Hated:
1st runner-up (1991)
2nd runner-up (1999)
Most Improved:
2nd runner-up (1991)
Most Popular:
2nd runner-up (1992, 1994)
3rd runner-up (1996)
Tag Team of the Year:
1st runner-up (2001)
3rd runner-up (1998)
Wrestler of the Year:
2nd runner-up (1997)

Offense (9.5): The Undertaker's offense has improved significantly during the past couple of years, which is quite an achievement for a superstar so late in his career. He used to be a notoriously slow starter who absorbed too much punishment before mounting a spooky comeback. He has been far more aggressive in his current "American Badass" persona, especially since winning the hardcore title, which allows him to end a lot of matches relatively quickly. It was nice to see him add the Dragon sleeper to his repertoire as well.

Defense (9.5): The big knock against The Undertaker used to be that he would allow himself to be trapped in holds, then fight his way out through sheer power or by using his lanky frame for leverage. Now he does everything possible to avoid being trapped in holds. Battling Steve Austin and Triple-H will do that to a wrestler.

Experience (10.0): He proudly refers to his "Decade Of Destruction" in the WWF. Except for Curt Hennig, The Undertaker has more experience than any other active wrestler in the company. The fact that Undertaker has stayed at or near the top of one federation for so long is what separates him from most superstars, including Hulk Hogan.

Conditioning (8.5): Nagging injuries prevent The Undertaker from doing certain exercises during workouts. In fact, he suffered an injury during one of his training sessions that postponed his 2000 comeback by several months. He has never possessed a bodybuilder's physique, but his height and reach advantages compensate for that.

Science (6.5): Years ago, The Undertaker took more of a mental approach to applying and escaping holds. Now he brawls on pure instinct, using his combination of size and adrenaline to overwhelm opponents. Undertaker is reaching the age at which he needs to conserve energy, yet he's never displayed more than a passing respect for mat grappling.

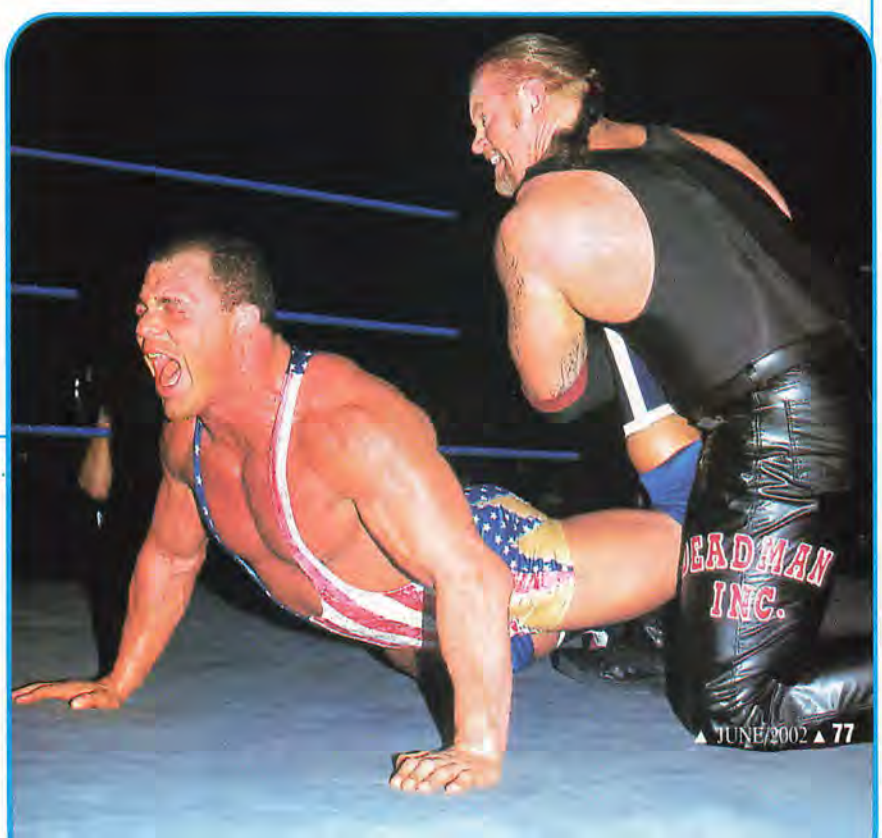
Stamina (8.5): This used to be one of The Undertaker's primary strengths. His ability to pop up off the canvas marveled fans and frightened his opponents. Against overweight brawlers such as Yokozuna and Mick Foley, it wasn't hard for Undertaker to have superior endurance. 'Taker is losing his edge in stamina to the WWF's younger stars.

Power (9.5): He's made a career out of overpowering strong men, including Hulk Hogan, Giant Gonzales, Kamala, and Vader. Although his WWF opponents are becoming younger and faster with each passing year, they aren't necessarily getting bigger, stronger, meaner, or tougher.

Speed (7.0): The Undertaker's speed and agility have suffered a bit in recent years, and that's why he doesn't walk the top rope as often and almost never executes a flying clothesline to the arena floor anymore. His long legs, although hampered by bad knees, get him from one end of the ring to the other in a very short time. That gives the illusion he's relatively fast.

Ability To Absorb Punishment (9.5): His ability—almost eagerness—to take punishment is what made him a phenom. It gave him the aura of a dead man walking. Now that 'Taker admits to being an "ass-kisser," doesn't that affect his will to win? Without the pride of being a self-made man, he might not have as much incentive anymore.

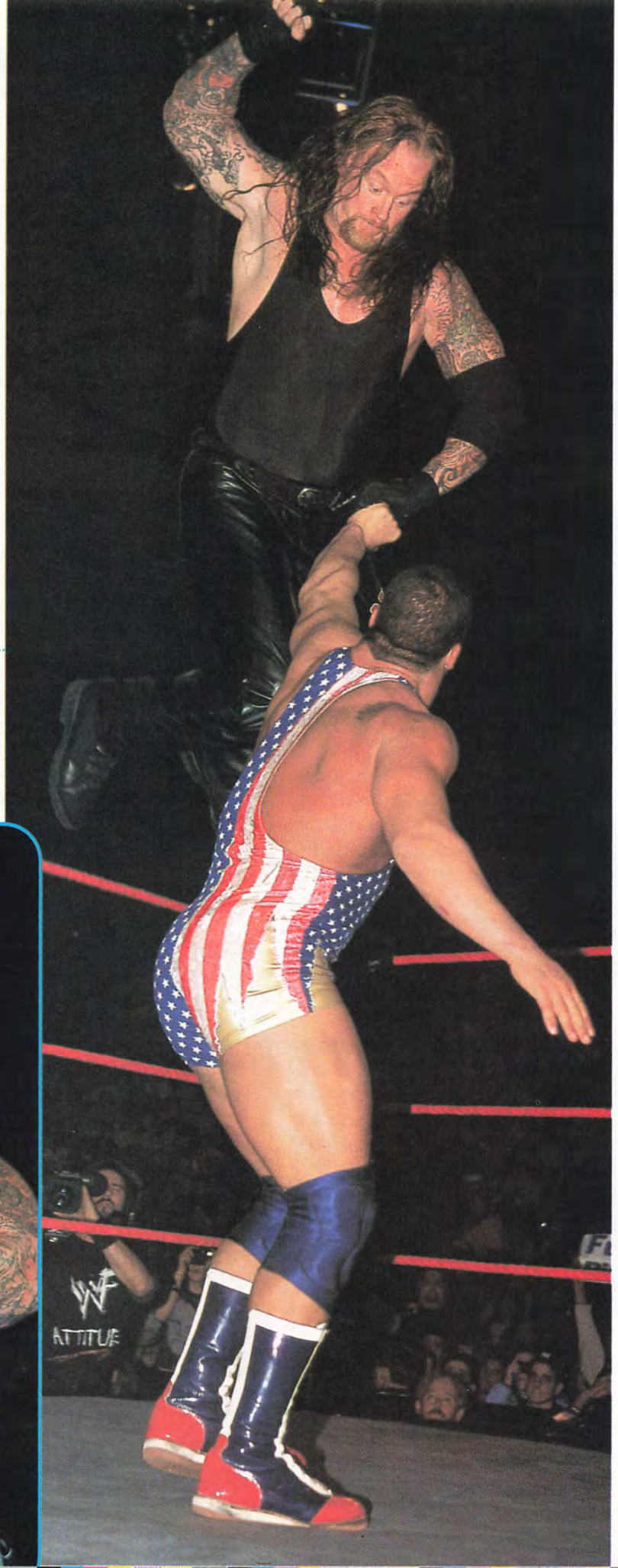
Quality Of Opposition (9.0): Frankly, The Undertaker has scared off a lot of competition as of late. As the WWF hardcore champion, Undertaker competes in matches with no rules. There aren't many superstars willing to risk their lives in that manner, especially after witnessing how 'Taker nearly destroyed a world-class athlete like Rob Van Dam and squashed both Hardy Boyz.



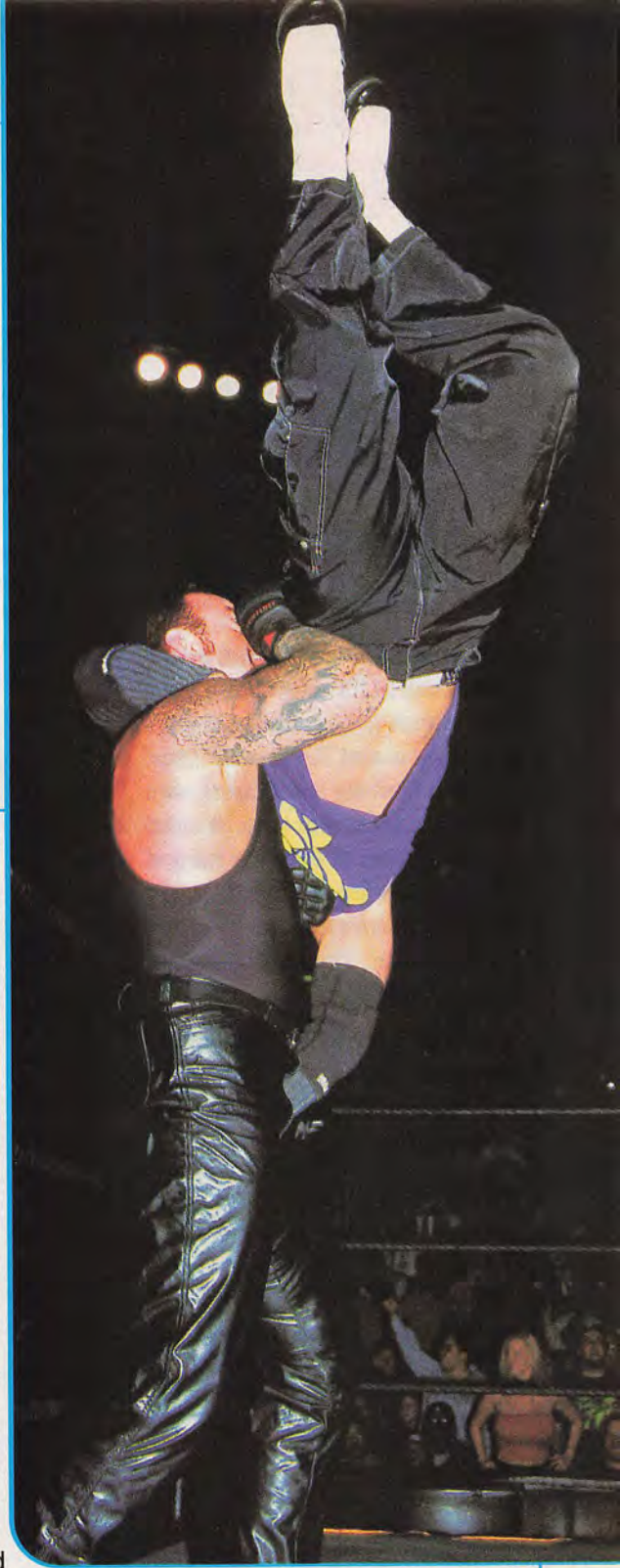
① **At this advanced stage of his career, The Undertaker could stand to improve on his mat wrestling and submission skills. Unfortunately, he probably only trapped Kurt Angle in an anklelock as a way of taunting him, not because he realized he could make use of the hold on a regular basis.**

③ 'Taker knew what he was doing when he decided to try to make an impact on the hardcore division. There might not be a nastier man in the WWF today. When he has license to beat up an opponent using any means necessary, he is so very dangerous.

② Give 'Taker a lot of credit for updating his repertoire with moves and holds no opponent would expect to see from him. Tajiri never expected to have to deal with a Dragon sleeper from him. When he mixes the occasional new move/hold with old-school favorites (such as walking the top rope while working over a rival's arm), he is difficult to defend against.



④ **Intimidation has become a huge part of The Undertaker's overall strategy. If a younger, much smaller opponent such as Matt Hardy doesn't truly believe he can beat 'Taker, he's in big trouble before the opening bell rings. All it might take is a choke-slam and suplex or two, and 'Taker will basically have the match won.**



THE ANALYSIS

Repertoire: Because The Undertaker's bad knees prevent him from gaining much momentum for high-impact moves, he relies heavily on rebounds from the ropes. Bouncing off the ropes, he delivers clotheslines, elbowsmashes, and the foot to the face with greater power. The choke-slam has become a signature move in recent years, and the WWF's unofficial ban on the piledriver led him to develop his last ride power bomb.

Strengths: The Undertaker is as intimidating as ever. His long run of dominance in the WWF has given him tremendous self-confidence. His reputation awes younger wrestlers, even main-eventers. He has also become a locker room leader, and it's awkward for some wrestlers, who show him so much respect backstage, to dare one-up the hardcore champion inside or outside the ring.

Weaknesses: The Undertaker prefers the "American Badass" persona because it fits his personality better than "The Man From The Dark Side." Unfortunately, The Harris Boys thoroughly exhausted the biker dude image. Undertaker hasn't changed that image, not even after his heel turn in November 2001. Now that 'Taker is on the dark side again, he should act like it. An updated version of his 1998 evil sorcerer gimmick would be appropriate.

Defining Career Moment: At King of the Ring 1998, The Undertaker achieved wrestling infamy by hurling Mankind from the top of the "Hell In A Cell" cage. Mankind fell all the way down, through the Spanish announcers' table, and to the concrete floor. Then he choke-slammed Mankind through the top of the cage and to the canvas 15 feet below—then dropped him onto thumbtacks spread all over the mat.

Future: The veteran, who still hasn't reached his 40th birthday, should have at least a few more years in the WWF. It took him eight years to emerge from being a sideshow wrestler who was involved in one prolonged feud after another to become a mainstream main-event star. Undertaker doesn't like being called a legend because he doesn't want to be coerced into feature attraction status. He has at least an outside chance at embarking on another WWF title run.

A LOT TO DIGEST!

We hope you have a lot of time on your hands. Because it's going to take you a while to read through these 132-page, digest-sized issues! *The Wrestler Digest* and *Inside Wrestling Digest* contain more than 30 stories in each issue, all culled from the previous three months worth of articles in your favorite magazines, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated, The Wrestler, Inside Wrestling, Wrestle America,* and *Wrestling Superstars.*

Now back issues of *The Wrestler Digest* and *Inside Wrestling Digest* are available in limited quantities. Order today!

Please send me the back issues I have checked off below. I have enclosed a $5 check or money order for each issue as payment in full.

Wrestler Digest	Inside Wrestling Digest
☐ Winter 1997	☐ Spring 1998
☐ Spring 1998	☐ Winter 1998
☐ Fall 1998	☐ Spring 1999
☐ Summer 1999	☐ Fall 1999
☐ Winter 1999	☐ Fall 2000
☐ Summer 2000	

ONLY $5 EACH

Send To:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

For all orders outside the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent via surface mail, and $3.00 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. 5342/08-00/4c

ringside

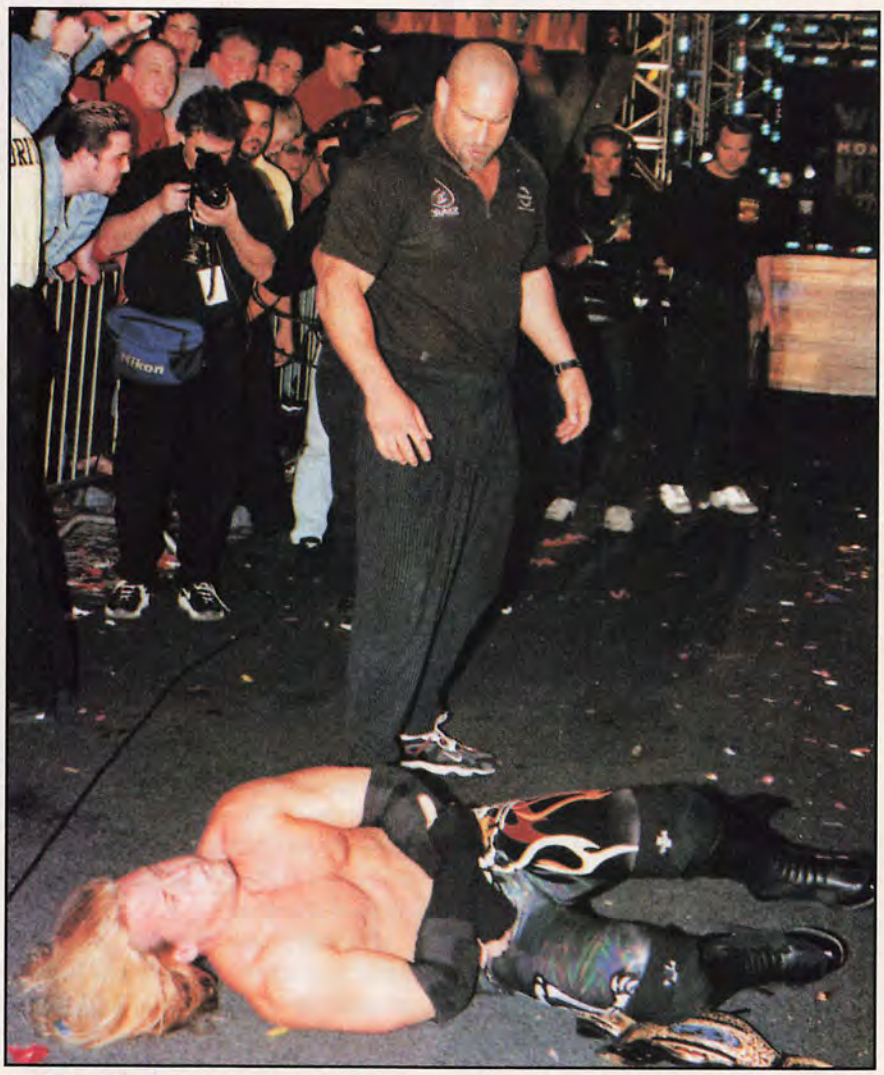
(Continued from page 13)

boards. It's funny: Even as the WWF champion, Jericho still can't get an offensive move in on the guy.

Congratulations to everyone involved with the Indiana-based Wild Championship Wrestling Outlaws. The group has itself a local television clearance. I can't wait to see the tapes ... **Bob Holly,** who spent a majority of the winter as a trainer on *Tough Enough 2,* recently stepped into the ring against Mid-Atlantic junior heavyweight champion **Rikki Nelson**, beating him in a non-title match. Holly just happened to be in the area ... The USWF's **Black Sultan** was forced to retire from wrestling following his loss to **Kid U.S.A.** in a retirement match. We'll see if it sticks. On the same show, **The Soul Brothers** beat **Joey Knight** and **Robin Knightwing** to become the new USWF tag team champs.

Well, fans, that does it for me this month. Enjoy your wanderings.

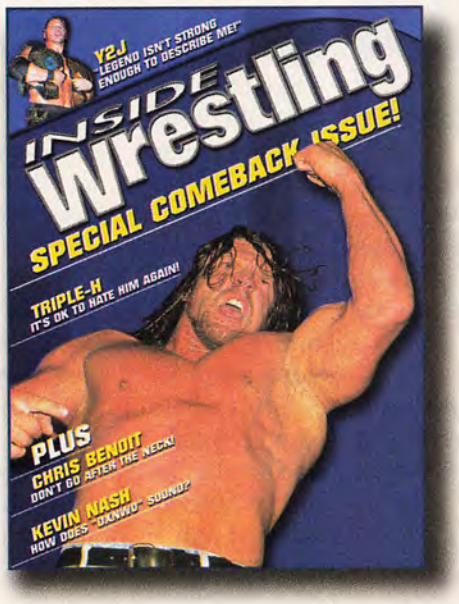
(Will Welsh can be reached via e-mail at PWIRingside@home.com.) ☐



Bad things happen to Chris Jericho when he runs into Bill Goldberg. When he did it in WCW, he simply got knocked down—even though they never did have an official match. Goldberg got the best of Y2J at a recent charity hockey game, too, although this confrontation was much less serious and a lot less violent.

this month in...

INSIDE Wrestling®

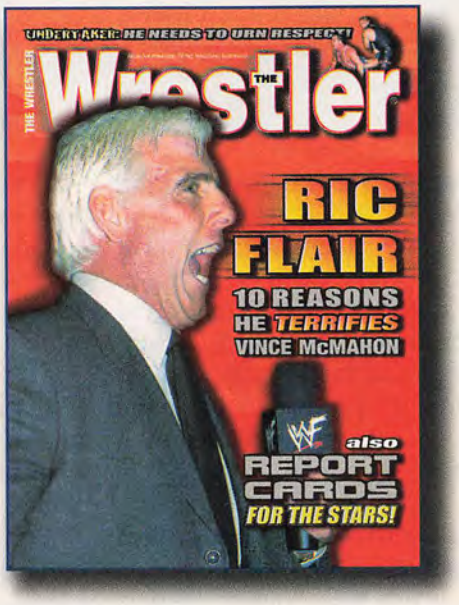


Looks like 2002 is shaping up to be a year of comebacks. **TRIPLE-H** has already returned, but we think it's time you started hating him again. It'd be for his own good! ... **CHRIS BENOIT** is on his way back, but we wonder how opponents will approach matches with him now—if they approach him at all. Will he be the same wrestler after spinal surgery? ... We all know **KEVIN NASH** is back in a big way, but who will be in the "band" that he puts together this time? ... Don't miss our "Hotseat" with **CHRIS JERICHO**! He says "legend" isn't a strong enough word to describe him!

All this—and much more—in the June 2002 issue of ***Inside Wrestling***

NOW ON SALE!

The Wrestler®



The look on **VINCE McMAHON's** face when **RIC FLAIR** showed up on the night after Survivor Series—it was a look of fright and bewilderment we won't soon forget. And Vince has reason to fear Flair—10 good reasons, actually! ... **THE UNDERTAKER** says he wants respect. We think he needs to earn respect. Check that—he needs to *urn* respect! ... Will we ever see a second national promotion emerge to compete with the WWF? The people who run the **XWF** hope so. Will their $30-million gamble pay off? ... Don't miss part two of our 2001 report cards for the sport's top stars!

All this—and much more—in the May 2002 issue of ***The Wrestler***

NOW ON SALE!

You're at the airport. You see your favorite wrestler relaxing in one of the terminals. You rush up to him or her as questions fill your excited mind. There are certain things you just *have* to know about this person. Well, these are the 12 questions you'd *never* think of asking

12 questions

MIKE SANDERS

What the hell are you doing in Heartland?

The WWF made me come here, but I'm making the best of it. I'm learning to grow. I was out of the ring for about five months, and it was a good place to get back in the ring. I learned a lot from Johnny Ace and Dean Malenko when they were here.

What's the best pickup line you ever used?

I don't use pickup lines; the girls try to use them on *me.*

Who's more intense, Sarge from WCW's Power Plant, or Les Thatcher from the HWA?

Sarge. Bar none. Hands down.

What do you do on Monday nights now?

Go to Hooters and watch *Monday Night Raw. Religiously.*

What wrestler would you like to trade places with for one day?

Kevin Nash *(laughs).* No comment.

Are you a lover or a fighter at heart?

I can get a little of both done in one session if she wants.

Who is the least funny person you've ever met?

Les Thatcher. He tells stories sometimes that no one else ever gets.

If you had to get a tattoo tomorrow, what would it read?

One of my left biceps that says Kenny and another that says Alexis on the right. Those are my kids.

Everyone knows you for your mouth, but is there anything else for which we should know you?

I'm also known for my expert technical mat wrestling.

What TV show do you try not to let people know that you watch?

I watch *Gilmore Girls* because my daughter likes that.

You have a choice between Joan Lunden, Jim Hellwig, and Carrot Top to live with on a deserted island for the rest of your life. Which one would you pick and why?

Joan Lunden, because I'd have to be with a chick. Not that I'm particularly attracted to her, mind you, but hey, she *is* a chick.

You have a hammer, a midget, and a roulette wheel. What are your plans for the evening?

First, I wouldn't take Jamie Knoble gambling with me. But if I had to, I'd let him have the hammer to build a step stool so he'd be tall enough to play the roulette wheel. □

for the guys...

ALLISON DANGER

BEST FEATURE ...

Her hair

WHAT GUY WOULDN'T LIKE TO SEE HER DRESSED UP AS ...

A Catholic schoolgirl. There's just something about a young, beautiful woman dressed in a plaid skirt, white shirt, and knee socks

FACE IT, MEN CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF ...

Her sassy attitude. She's out there to have fun *and* to be successful, and it shows in her every movement

BUT WATCH OUT FOR THAT ...

Wicked tongue. She has no problem putting men in their place—even the wrestlers she manages!

SHE'D BE GREAT IN THIS TV OR MOVIE PART ...

As any one of the Charlie's Angels

IF SHE WEREN'T INVOLVED IN WRESTLING, WE COULD SEE HER SUCCEEDING AS ...

A feisty assistant district attorney on *Law & Order*

ONE THING SHE COULD STAND TO IMPROVE UPON IS ...

Exposure. She really hasn't ventured outside the Northeast independents. She's a very versatile female performer, whether it's as a manager or a wrestler. We know that, but it's important that more of the wrestling world gets a chance to find it out as well

LITTLE-KNOWN FACT ...

She plays ice hockey in her spare time. What else would you expect from a Canadian?

OVERHEARD AT RINGSIDE ...

"What's a girl like that doing with the S.A.T.? Heck, she's bigger than Red!"

for the ladies...

RON WATERMAN

BEST FEATURE...

His gorgeous eyes. Those ice-blue babies could melt any woman's heart

WHAT WOMAN WOULDN'T LIKE TO SEE HIM DRESSED UP IN...

Fatigues. Hey, it's time to be patriotic, and seeing him in a pair of cammos that hug all the right places would make most women want to salute

FACE IT, WOMEN CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF...

His intensity. He's a take-charge kind of guy, and a lot of ladies dig that

BUT WATCH OUT FOR THAT...

Temper. When he blows his top, there's no controlling this beast

HE'D BE GREAT IN THIS TV OR MOVIE PART...

Jean-Claude Van Damme's role in *Bloodsport*

IF HE WEREN'T INVOLVED IN WRESTLING, WE COULD SEE HIM SUCCEEDING AS...

The all-time greatest Ultimate Fighting Champion. He's already a three-time UFC winner.

ONE THING HE COULD STAND TO IMPROVE UPON IS...

His poise. He may be a 23-year veteran of the amateur ranks, but he's only been a pro for two. The two sports are somewhat similar, but he still makes rookie mistakes that frustrate him

LITTLE-KNOWN FACT...

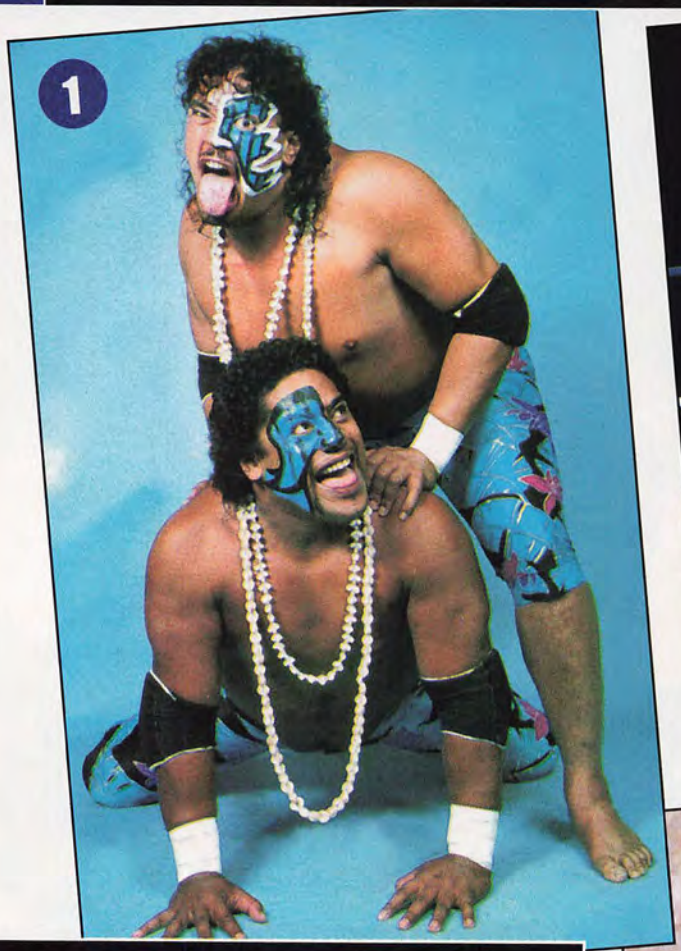
He's also an accomplished artist whose pottery, sculptures, and other artwork is being sold in two Colorado galleries

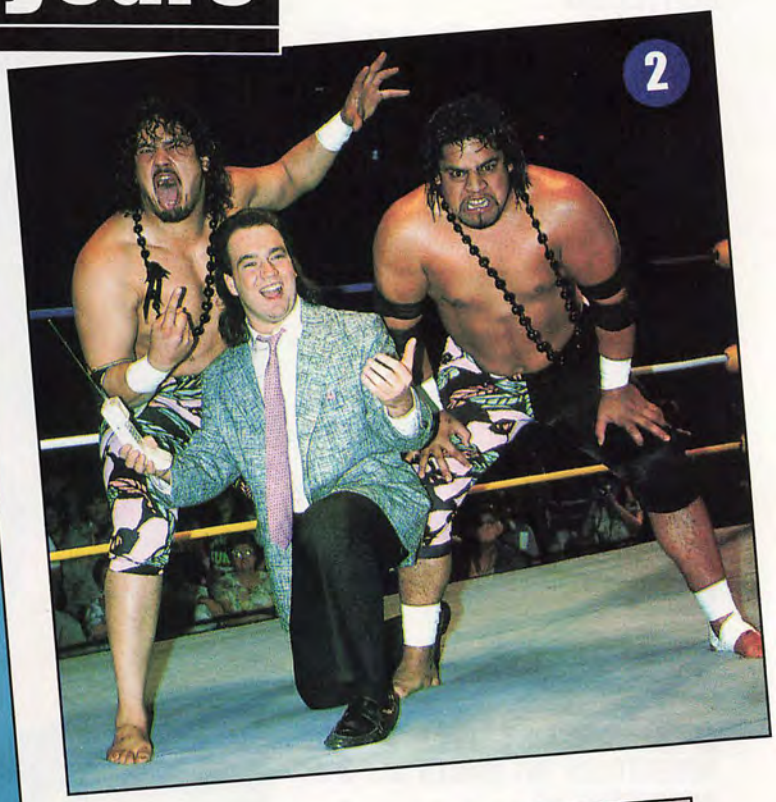
OVERHEARD AT RINGSIDE...

"If *he's* one of the WWF's developmental wrestlers, I want to see the rest of them soon!"

It's amazing how drastically certain superstars change their looks over the years. A change in hair color or hairstyle here, a new ring outfit there, a few more tattoos here and there, or the mother of all changes ... the total gimmick overhaul. Every month, *PWI* will show you just how much one of your favorites has transformed himself. Yeah, it really is the same person in all these photos!

through the years

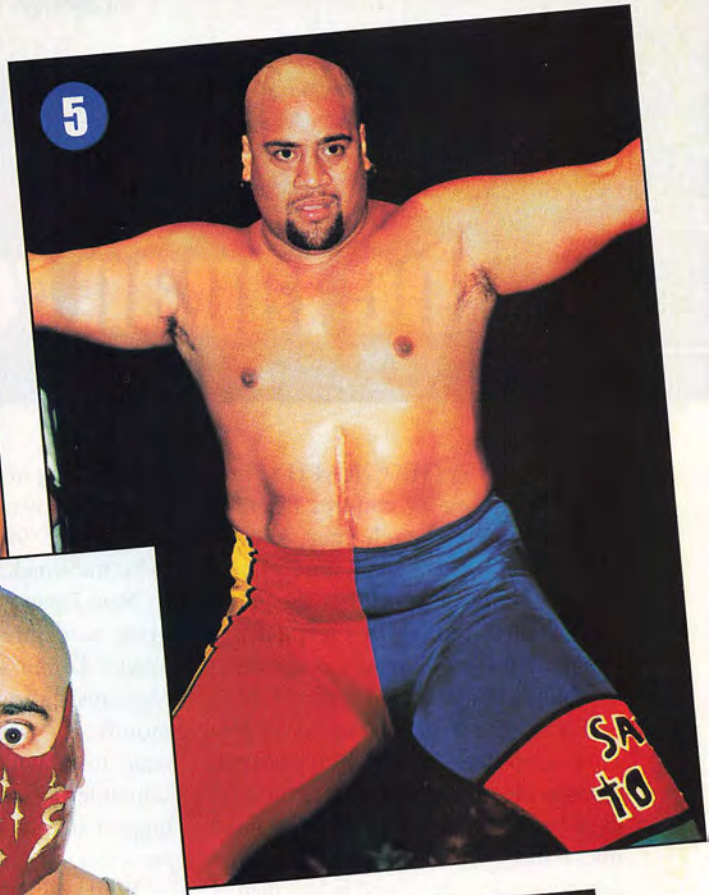


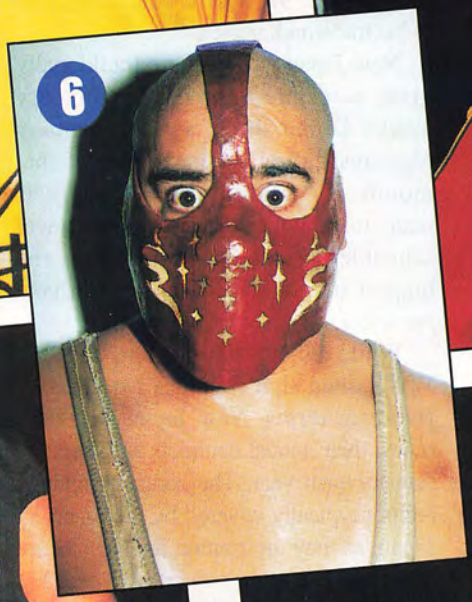


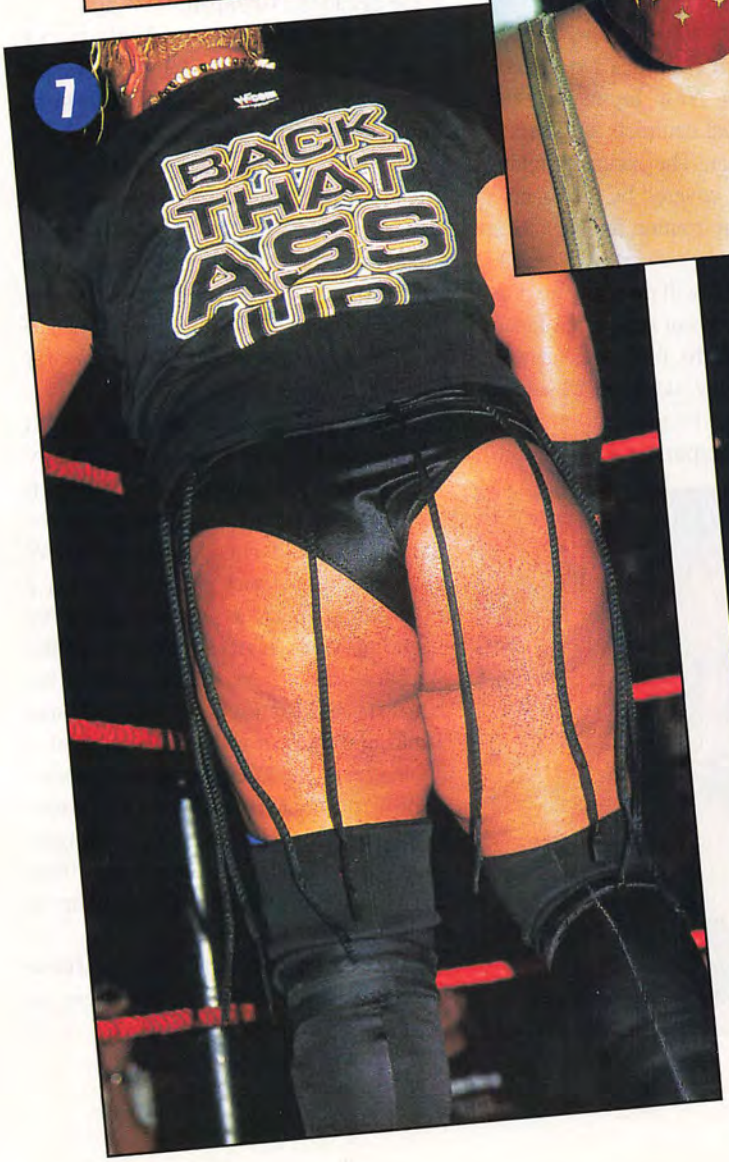
THE RIKISHI FILES

1—That's him on the bottom, as one-half of The Samoan Swat Team (1988)
2—Yep, he has a history with Paul Heyman (1989)
3—His first taste of gold in the WWF—as a Headshrinker (1994)
4—Just Fatu, not Headshrinker Fatu here (1994)
5—What happened to his hair? (1996)
6—Anyone remember him as The Sultan ... from Iran? (1997)
7—His new gimmick (2000)
8—There's the fun-loving Rikishi! (2001)

4


5


6


7
BACK
THAT
ASS
UP

8
RIKI

the japan report

By Mike Spillane

ASK ANY GEOGRAPHY buff which country endures the most earthquakes each year, and the answer you'll get is likely to be Japan. The *puroresu* world itself has felt a number of earthquakes in the past few months, but none of these was caused by the shifting of any tectonic plates.

For starters, **Yuji Nagata**, one of New Japan's top stars, squared off with **Mirko Crocop** in a mixed martial arts fight just days before Nagata was slated to headline a show at the Tokyo Dome. New Japan's ace was destroyed in less than 30 seconds by the more experienced fighter, and it seemed like all of Nagata's momentum was wiped out in that ugly half-minute. Nagata, who is renowned for being a submission and suplex specialist, was knocked out by Crocop before a huge live audience.

Days later, NOAH's top star, **Jun Akiyama**, headlined New Japan's Tokyo Dome show, putting his Global Honored Crown on the line against Nagata. To the surprise of many people, Nagata was warmly received by the fans despite his embarrassing loss days before to Crocop. Akiyama, however, retained his title via his exploder '98, a wrist-clutch variation of his trademark suplex.

New Japan wrestlers are traditionally given a respite after the big January Tokyo Dome show, as the company regroups during the early part of that month. By the time New Japan was ready to announce the lineups and travel schedules for its upcoming tours, the biggest tremor of all was set to shake *puroresu*.

While athletes who compete for the WWF often sign contracts for three-to-five-year terms, New Japan wrestlers renew their annual contracts at the end of January each year. The contract signings are not typically covered by the media in Japan, as they are routine for New Japan and rarely prove newsworthy. The 2002 signings, however, will probably go down as the biggest stories of the year in Japan.

First, **Keiji Muto**, the hottest wrestler in the Orient today, declined to sign his contract. Thanks to some cooperation between New Japan and All-Japan, Muto, as you probably know, managed in 2001 to capture All Japan's Triple Crown, which made him the first NJPW wrestler to ever hold an AJPW title. When Muto did not re-sign with New Japan, the message he was sending was clear: Muto was defecting to the company of which he was already champion—All-Japan Pro Wrestling.

Muto was not making the jump alone, though. **Kendo Ka Shin**, the IWGP junior heavyweight champion at the time, also turned down his NJPW contract. Like Muto, Ka Shin has turned his attention to AJPW, a company desperately in need of new stars. Muto and Ka Shin are being joined by **Satoshi Kojima**, one-half of New Japan's franchise tag team with **Hiroyoshi Tenzan**. Together, Kojima, Ka Shin, and Muto represent some serious star power in the *puroresu* landscape, and the three of them are bound for New Japan's arch-rival of the last three decades, All-Japan.

And the defections probably won't end there. Several other New Japan wrestlers, including **Koji Kanemoto** and **Michoyoshi Ohara**, had not been re-signed as of press time. Five of New Japan's front office employees are also departing for AJPW, so for the first time since the exodus of **Mitsuharu Misawa** and the subsequent formation of the NOAH group, All-Japan is poised to become a dominant player in the world of Japanese wrestling.

NJPW is taking this major talent raid very seriously. Lawsuits are already being filed, claiming that All-Japan somehow tampered with contract negotiations. **Hiroshi Hase**, a former NJPW star who now works for AJPW, is a potential suspect, as he is a long-time friend of Muto. Hase is only a part-time wrestler now, for he spends most of his time in the Japanese Diet. **Antonio Inoki**, the founder of New Japan, is also a senator in the Diet. Japanese newspapers were quick to report on the situation, particularly when an outraged Inoki called for Hase's resignation from the Diet for his alleged involvement in the talent raid.

And American fans thought **Jesse Ventura** caused a lot of controvesy as governor of Minnesota! □

To the surprise of no one, Keiji Muto was voted 2001 Wrestler of the Year by the Japanese press. To the surprise of many, he jumped from New Japan to All-Japan in January of this year. And he took some big-name New Japan stars with him.

the mexico report

By Mike Spillane

IF STIPULATION MATCHES seem trite to fans in America, it's for a good reason. How many times have we seen a wrestler lose a retirement match, for example, only to return within a few weeks or months on some technicality or without any logical explanation whatsoever? Even more unsettling is the fact that we see the most basic rules overlooked or ignored during matches. In Mexico, however, Lucha fans know that the rules are the rules, and they are not to be broken. A recent event in Tijuana served as a perfect example.

In a match featuring **Mr. Niebla**, **Felino**, **Dr. Wagner Jr.**, and **Fuerza Guerrera**, things got a little out of control. As tempers flared, the four wrestlers brawled through the crowd, tossing members of the audience out of their way as they fought. All four men have since been reprimanded for their actions, and none of them will be permitted to wrestle in Tijuana for 90 days. **La Parka**, another Tijuana favorite, is also under suspension; while using a chair in a recent match with **Damian**, Parka struck a fan. He will also be barred from competition in Tijuana for the time being.

The strict commission that oversees Lucha Libre takes what it does seriously, and it has no compunction about fully enforcing the rules in or out of the ring. This comes as quite a blow to Niebla, Felino, Guerrera, Parka, and Wagner, as Tijuana is a Lucha hotbed, a key city for gaining exposure and finding regular work on wrestling shows.

Dr. Wagner Jr. is dealing with controversy inside the ring as well. His EMLL feud with veteran *technico* **Atlantis** has escalated following a number of attempted unmaskings. Most of their recent bouts have ended in disqualifications (and double-disqualifications), as both men have bloodied each other while trying to remove the other's prized hood. Fans anticipate that the mounting tension between the two will lead to the signing of a mask vs. mask match in the very near future.

A new promotion, XLUM, is becoming very strong very quickly south of the border. Originally expected to be called *Promociones Sandoval* (named for the promoter), XLUM has emerged on the Tijuana scene and already become a power player, thanks mostly to **Rey Misterio Sr.** With Misterio Sr. serving as matchmaker, XLUM has attracted a number of Lucha's biggest names and is poised to become a serious rival to *Promociones Baja,* Tijuana's top group. Caught in the middle of the potential promotional war is a list of wrestlers that reads like a who's who of Lucha. Both Baja and XLUM will try to win the loyalty of **Juventud Guerrera, Nicho el Millionario**, **Blue Panther**, **Halloween**, **Emilio Charles Jr.**, and many more.

The Black Family has been something of an institution in AAA, but it looks like the group might be ready to take its talents elsewhere. The stable of Luchadores that includes **Chessman**, **Charly Manson**, **Cuervo**, and **Escoria** has been together for some time and recently added a new member, known only as **Dark**, to its ranks. So far, only Manson has taken steps to leave AAA and find work in the independents, but don't be shocked if the others follow.

Rey Misterio Jr. sure does get around. In the last few months, he's been working Mexican independents and even the occasional date for EMLL. When he's not doing that, he's flying to Puerto Rico and appearing with the World Wrestling Council or making the occasional appearance in the United States for a variety of independent promotions. Now that his Time Warner contract has expired, Misterio Jr. has made himself available to promotions worldwide, and everyone is clamoring to book the high-flyer on cards (even **Jim Ross** recently met with him). To his credit, Misterio Jr. didn't become lazy while waiting to become a free agent. In fact, many fans have noticed that he appears to be in the best condition of his career. Match results would certainly seem to reflect that, as Rey has been pulling off one showstopping performance after another, no matter where he goes. □

Controversy follows Dr. Wagner Jr. everywhere he goes, it seems. He and three other Luchadores were banned from wrestling in Tijuana for 90 days after getting a little too aggressive during a brawl that spilled into the crowd. Also, he and arch-rival Atlantis seem destined for a huge mask vs. mask showdown.

BACK ISSUES OF INSIDE Wrestling

Be sure to fill in the gaps in your collection of "the magazine that rips the lid off pro wrestling!" INSIDE WRESTLING gives you all the information you need to keep up with the pro wrestling scene! Avoid sellouts—order today!

March 1978: Don't Believe Those Lies About Dusty Rhodes: Also: Greg Valentine, Bob Backlund, Graham-Sammartino.
April 1978: What Bob Backlund Can Learn From Bruno Sammartino. Also: Rick Steamboat, Bruiser, Superstar Graham, Ric Flair.
Dec. 1978: The Shattered Dreams Of Dusty Rhodes. Also: Mr. Wrestling II, Dino Bravo, Flair-Steamboat, Bruno Sammartino.
April 1979: The Terrible Pain Ric Flair Causes Dusty Rhodes. Also: Andre the Giant, Backlund-Maivia, Paul Jones, converted rulebreakers.
Aug. 1980: Larry Zbyszko's Foolproof Plot To Drive Bruno Out Of Wrestling. Also: Bobby Heenan, Mr. Wrestling II, Ox Baker.
Nov. 1980: Zbyszko vs. Putski: From Brotherly Love To Brutal Hatred. Also: Nick Bockwinkel, Dusty Rhodes, The Assassin, Koloff & Volkoff.
Jan. 1981: Race vs. Backlund: Did The WWF Trick Harley Race? Also: Pedro Morales, Snuka & Stevens, Strongbow-Sheik, Dick Slater.
April 1981: Bruno Sammartino Jr. Confesses: "It's Hell Carrying The Name Of My Father." Also: Bugsy McGraw, Capt. Lou Albano, Mongolian Stomper, Flair-Race.
May 1981: Hussein Arab vs. Ivan Koloff: A Bloody War Explodes In A Neutral Country. Also: Bob Backlund, Bobo Brazil, Santana & Bravo, D. Von Erich-Race.
Sept. 1981: Patera & The Freebirds: The Unholy Alliance Seeks To Cripple Ted DiBiase. Also: Junkyard Dog, Dory Funk Jr., Killer Khan, Ivan Koloff.
March 1982: Backlund-Valentine Death Match: The WWF Title Is Back Where It Belongs. Also: Austin Idol, Spoiler, Tommy Rich, Brisco-DiBiase.
April 1982: "Only Dusty Rhodes Can Save The AWA From Nick Bockwinkel," By Verne Gagne. Also: David Von Erich, Blackjacks, Masked Superstar & Super Destroyer, Andre-Khan.
May 1982: Adrian Adonis: "I Can Beat Bob Backlund ... I Just Can't Beat The System!" Also: Dusty Rhodes, Flair & Mr. Wrestling II, D. Von Erich-M. Graham, Hogan-Blackwell.
June 1982: Blackjack Mulligan Jr.'s Tragic Story: "I Have No Father ... I Have No Friends!" Also: Sgt. Slaughter, Morales-Valentine, Montreal, Super Destroyer & Masked Superstar.
Aug. 1982: Is Andre The Giant Getting Too Big For Wrestling? Also: Nick Bockwinkel, Mil Mascaras, Backlund-Mulligan Sr., Studd-Super Destroyer.
Oct. 1982: Roddy Piper: "I Don't Have To Cheat To Defeat Tommy Rich." Also: James J. Dillon, Andre-Mulligan Sr., Pat Patterson, Magnificent Muraco.
Nov. 1982: Ric Flair—Wrestling's Most Versatile Champion. Also: Hansen & Anderson, Mulligan-Windham, Jimmy Snuka.
Dec. 1982: Andre vs. Mulligan: The Giant Is Mightier Than The Claw. Also: Grand Wizard, Jerry Lawler, Rich-Heenan, Jack Brisco.
Feb. 1983: Rhodes vs. Funk: The Bloody Horror Of A Barbed Wire Fence Match. Also Ted DiBiase, Andre-Orton Jr., Hogan & Patera, Flair-Hansen.
March 1983: Superstar Graham: "The Hell With Pedro—I Want Backlund!" Also: Terry Funk, Rocky Johnson, JYD-Gino Hernandez, Johnn Studd.
April 1983: Ivan Koloff vs. Ken Patera: The Shocking Truth Behind The Battle Of The Titans. Also: Albano-Snuka, Kabuki, Tommy Rich.
June 1983: Bob Backlund vs. John Studd: The Untold Story Behind Studd's Raw Deal. Also: Jim Garvin, Bockwinkel-Lawler, Bob Orton Jr.
Sept. 1983: Zbyszko vs. Rich: Can The National Title Survive This Brutal Tug Of War? Also: Andre-Kamala, Piper-Valentine, Michael Hayes.
Nov. 1983: We Sent Hulk Hogan To Cover Bockwinkel vs. Wahoo ... And All Hell Broke Loose! Also: James J. Dillon, Race-Kevin Von Erich, Paul Ellering, Reed-JYD.
April 1984: Rick Steamboat Quits Wrestling! The *Real* Story Behind His Most Painful Decision. Also: Masked Superstar-Mulligan, Adams-Garvin, Barry Windham, Ric Flair.
June 1984: Ric Flair On The Defensive: Is Mike Rotundo Ready To Take The NWA Title? Also: Ted DiBiase, Jim Cornette, Angelo Mosca Jr.
July 1984: Ric Flair Brings The World Title To The New York Area: A Night Of Champions At The Meadowlands. Also: Martel-Bravo, Mr. Wrestling II, Jumbo Tsuruta.
Aug. 1984: Junkyard Dog Joins Jim Valiant's Boogie Woogie Brigade. Also: Steve O-Zbyszko, Magnum-Wrestling II, Austin Idol, Sugar-Spoiler.
Sept. 1984: Rick Martel Dethrones Jumbo Tsuruta: Finally, And AWA Champion To Be Proud Of. Also: Brody-LeDuc, Iron Sheik, Kerry Von Erich, Rock 'n' Roll Express.
Oct. 1984: Collision Of The Florida Musclemen: Can Billy Jack Squeeze Superstar Graham Out Of Wrestling? Also: Road Warriors, Flair-Steamboat, Eddie Gilbert, Orndorff & Shultz-Atlas & Johnson.
Nov. 1984: Dusty Rhodes: Champion Of Champions ... And Still The Lord Of The Ring. Also: Rich-Gilbert, Gino Hernandez, Road Warriors, JYD-Reed.
Dec. 1984: How Hulkamania Trampled Big John Studd. Also: Road Warriors, Magnum T.A., Wahoo McDaniel, Sullivan-Rhodes.
March 1985: He's Back And Better Than Ever: Backlund-A-Mania Is Sweeping The Nation! Also: Koloffs, Billy Jack, Von Erichs-Devastation Inc.
June 1985: Sgt. Slaughter Topples Ric Flair—So Why Isn't He Champion? Also: Ellering & Road Warriors, Koloffs & Khrushchev-Von Erichs, Kevin Von Erich, Andre & JYD.
Sept. 1985: A Psychologist Examines "Rowdy" Roddy Piper! Is He As Crazy As You Think He Is? Also: Magnum-Blanchard, Fantastics, Ric Flair, Gagne & Sammartino.
Jan. 1986: Rick Steamboat vs. Magnificent Muraco: The Volacano Rumbles. Also: Warriors & Ellering, Mike Von Erich, Jake Roberts, Koloff & Khrushchev-Rock 'n' Rolls.
March 1986: Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo: Will Their Reunion Spell Disaster For Kendall Windham? Also: Studd-Hillbilly, Rick Rude, Jerry Lawler, Russians-Road Warriors.
April 1986: Starrcade's Over, But The Feud Rages On: Dusty Rhodes And Ric Flair Cannot Survive '86! Also: Andre-Heenan, Bill Watts, Scott Hall, Lance Von Erich.
June 1986: Barry Windham's NWA Mission: Humiliate Ric Flair! Also: Nord-Road Warriors, British Bulldogs, Lance Von Erich-One Man Gang, Tully Blanchard.
July 1986: All-American Special Issue: Sgt. Slaughter, Hulk Hogan, Magnum T.A. Also: Ivan Koloff, Rude-Lance Von Erich.
Aug. 1986: WrestleMania 2: Hulk Hogan's Night Of Redemption. Also: Jim & Ron Garvin, Steve Williams, Rick Martel, Sir Oliver Humperdink.
Sept. 1986: Dusty Rhodes & Magnum T.A.: America's Team Is Not Out For Glory ... It's Out For Revenge! Also: Andre-Hogan, Chris Adams, Barry Windham, Scott Hall.
Oct. 1986: The NWA Championship Sinks To A New Low: Ric Flair Needs 10 Thugs To Defeat Lex Luger! Also: Road Warriors, Randy Savage, Verne Gagne, Fantastics-Sheepherders.
Nov. 1986: Paul Ellering's Own Story: "How My Road Warriors Made Dusty Rhodes NWA Champion." Also: Adams-Rude, British Bulldogs, Bockwinkel-Hansen, Bill Watts.
Dec. 1986: Rock 'n' Roll Revival: Morton And Gibson Regain The NWA World Tag Title! Also: Lex Luger, Hogan-Adonis, Hall-DeBeers, Baby Doll.
Jan. 1987: The New Roddy Piper: Why The Fans Love Him ... But Why They Should Hate Him! Also: Terry Taylor, Magnum T.A., Rude-Flair, Bam Bam Bigelow.
Feb. 1987: Hogan, Piper, Orndorff: The WWF's Hate Triangle. Also: Terry Taylor, Ric Flair, Midnight Rockers, Kevin Von Erich.
March 1987: Happy Anniversary, Hulk Hogan! The WWF Champion Celebrates Three Years At The Top. Also: Ric Flair, Missy-Gilbert, Lex Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987: Steamboat & Windham: Manny Happy Returns! Also: Paul Ellering, Hacksaw Duggan, prospects.
May 1987: Barry Windham's Warning To Lex Luger: "Keep Away From The Four Horsemen." Also: Steamboat-Savage, Hogan-Andre, Freebirds & Sunshine, Williams-OMG, Midnight Rockers.
June 1987: Nikita Koloff's Mission: Saddle The Horsemen And Trample Lex Luger! Also: Roddy Piper, Adams & Taylor, Bruiser Brody, Scott Hall.
July 1987: Exclusive Ringside Reports: WrestleMania III Makes History! Also: Midnight Rockers, Mike Rotundo, Danny Davis, Ted DiBiase.
Aug. 1987: The Superpowers' Super Victory: Dusty Rhodes & Nikita Koloff Win The Crockett Cup. Also: Hulk Hogan, Lane & Cornette, Mike Von Erich, Adams & Taylor.
Sept. 1987: Hulk Hogan Defeats Harley Race: How Fate Took The Greatness Out Of This Violent Feud. Also: New Breed-R&R Express, Rich & Idol, Honky Tonk Man, Eddie Gilbert.
Oct. 1987: The Rock 'n' Roll Express Win Their Fourth NWA Title: Also: Hogan-Bigelow, Rhodes-Blanchard, scaffold, Kevin Sullivan.
Nov. 1987: Special Fan Poll: Should Mr. T Be Allowed To Referee? Also: War Games, Bulldogs, Condrey & Rose, Dusty Rhodes.
Dec. 1987: Rhodes Challenges Luger: Will Dusty's U.S. Title Hopes Split The Superpowers? Also: Hayes-Bubba, Magnum T.A., Randy Savage, Al Perez.
Jan. 1988: Is Hulk Hogan Bored With The WWF Title? Also: R&Rs-Horsemen, Flair-R. Garvin, Adrian Adonis, Steve Williams.
Feb. 1988: A Special Analysis By Jesse Ventura: Randy Savage Has Wimped Out! Also: Sting, R&Rs-Blanchard & Anderson, Kevin Von Erich, Dangerously-Lawler-Dundee.
March 1988: Bam Bam Bigelow: Wrestling's Most Dangerous Man. Also: Adams-Perez, Nikita Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
May 1988: Million-Dollar Middleman: The Future Of The WWF Is In Ted DiBiase's Hands. Also: Zbyszko & Baby Doll, Road Warriors-Konga & Warlord, Fritz Von Erich, Rockers-Express.
June 1988: The Noble Savage: How Beauty Killed The Beast Within "The Macho Man." Also: Warriors-Warlord & Barbarian, R&R Express, Baby Doll, G. Gagne-Hennig.
Aug. 1988: What Randy Savage Must Do To Escape The Shadow Of Hulk Hogan. Also: Hyatt-Gilbert, Sting, Michael Hayes, Honky Tonk.
Oct. 1988: Preview & Analysis: Megapowers vs. Megabucks. Also: Horsemen, Jerry Lawler, Warlord & Barbarian, Dangerously-Gilbert, Beefcake-Honky Tonk.
Nov. 1988: Dusty Rhodes vs. Barry Windham: The Night The Teacher Learned A Lesson. Also: Kerry-Lawler, Lex Luger, Muraco-Valentine, Freebirds.
Dec. 1988: Exclusive "Hotseat" Interview: Roddy Piper—Will He Ever Be Back? Also: Powers of Pain, Ultimate Warrior, Ric Flair, Bambi-Mystic, Kevin Von Erich.
Feb. 1989: Tully & Arn Will Fail Under Bobby Heenan! A Special Analysis By J.J. Dillon. Also: Hogan-Bossman, Sgt. Slaughter, Lawler-*Inside Wrestling*, Davis-Wayne.
June 1989: Finally, Fortune Favors The Challenger: Rick Steamboat Wins Ric Flair's NWA Belt! Also: Morton & Gibson, Macho Madness-Hulkamania, Lex Luger, Jimmy Jack Funk.
July 1989: Megapowers II? It's Time For Ultimate Warrior And Sting To Reunite! Also: Kerry Von Erich, Savage & Hart, Barry Windham, Demolition-Powers of Pain, ex-NWA stars.
Aug. 1989: Your Ballots Are In: Hulkamania Rules! Also: Tanaka & Diamond, Rick Steamboat, Bigelow-Rhodes, Rick Rude, Jim Cornette.
Sept. 1989: Savage Is Shamed By Hogan—Only Elizabeth Can Save Him Now. Also: Lex Luger, Mil Mascaras, Dusty Rhodes, Bushwhackers, Skandor Akbar.
Oct. 1989: Dusty Rhodes' WWF Hit List. Also: Hall-Pillman-Vicious, Curt Hennig, Warriors, Terry Gordy, Kevin Von Erich.
Nov. 1989: Please, Elizabeth—Don't Wrestle Sherri! Also: Mil Mascaras, Dangerously-Cornette Sting-T. Funk, Lex Luger, Jake Roberts.
Dec. 1989: The Dusty Road Is Paved With Gold: The American Dream Lives On! Also: Ric Flair, Hogan-Zeus, Embry-Chu-hi, Lex Luger, Larry Zbyszko.
Jan. 1990 Why Sting's Friendship Is Tearing Ric Flair Apart. Also: Morton & Gibson, Hulk Hogan, Sting-Flair, Roberts-DiBiase, Lawler-Embry.
Feb. 1990: Sex Symbol Showdown: Rude's Out ... Piper's In ... And The Fans Love It! Also: Warriors-Skyscrapers, Jimmy Snuka, Tom Zenk, Destruction Crew, Kerry Von Erich.
March 1990 (Special Issue): The '80s: A Rousing Review Of A Dynamic Decade. Also: Bobby Heenan, Ric Flair, Paul Orndorff.
April 1990: Starrcade '89: Night Of The Iron Men. Also: Warrior-Hogan, Dustin Rhodes, Buzz Sawyer, WWF shuffle.
May 1990: WrestleMania VI Main Event: Hulk Hogan vs. Ultimate Warrior: Exclusive Preview & Analysis. Also: Jerry Lawler, Al Perez, Lex Luger, Woman, LPWA.
June 1990: Tragedy Strikes Sting! How You Can Help Speed His Recovery. Also: Saito-Zbyszko, Earthquake, Ultimate Warrior, Jeff Jarrett.
July 1990: Our Urgent Plea To Hulk Hogan & Ultimate Warrior: Team Up And Eliminate These Men. Also: Steiners, Sting, Earthquake, Kokina Maximus, Tessa.
Aug. 1990: The Experts Agree: Lex Luger Has Made Ric Flair A Broken Man: Also: Hulk Hogan, Ultimate Warrior, Pillman & Zenk, Terry Taylor, Jerry Lawler.
Sept. 1990: Fighting Fire With Fire: The Awesome Foursome—Committed To Destroying The Horsemen. Also: Hulk Hogan, Hacksaw Duggan, JYD, Adams-Jeannie, Midnight Express.
Oct. 1990: Sting: "I Feel Like I've Conquered The World!" Also: Legion of Doom, Bushwhackers, El Gigante, Mike Rotundo, Juice Patrol.
Nov. 1990: Ric Flair & Hulk Hogan: A Tale Of Two Ex-Champions. Also: Sid Vicious, Sgt. Slaughter, Jeannie-Toni, Mr. Fuji & Orient Express.
Dec. 1990: Halloween Havoc Horror! Why Sting Is Spooked By Sid Vicious. Also: Hulk Hogan, Kerry Von Erich, Jim Cornette, Larry Zbyszko.
Jan. 1991: Warning To The Ultimate Warrior: The Legion Of Doom Will Lead You Tom Desruction. Also: Paul E. Dangerously, Chris Adams, Steiners, Lawler-T. Funk.
Feb. 1991: Our Plan For The "Hulkster" To Regain The WWF World Belt. Also: Terry Taylor, Rick Martel, Sting & Simmons, all-annoying, Stan Hansen.
March 1991: The Earthquake Feud Rumbles On: Will Hulk Hogan Be The Victim Of His Own Deadly Obsession? Also: Roberts-Martel, Sting-Hansen, Keirn-Perez, Barry Windham.
April 1991: The Steiners: They's Be Wrestling's Greatest Tag Team, But ... Also: Eddie Gilbert, Flair-Sting, Steiners, Roddy Piper, Larry Zbyszko, Sgt. Slaughter.
May 1991: Savage vs. Warrior: The Bloodlust Of Ex-Champions. Also: Steiners, Sting, Virgil, D. Sammartino-I. Koloff.
June 1991: Steiners, LOD: Tag Team Thunder. Also: Steve Williams, Nikita Koloff, I-C belt, Dundees, Arn Anderson.
July 1991: Hogan's Burning Mad! Beating Slaughter For The Title Was Not Enough. Also: Virgil, Nastys, Steiners, Dan Spivey, Terry Funk.
Aug. 1991: Are The Steiners Getting Too Cocky For Their Own Good? Also: Jerry Lawler, Rick Steamboat, Warrior-Undertaker, Dustin Rhodes, Flair-Windham.
Sept. 1991: Justice Is In The WWF ... And Hogan's In The Biggest Trouble Of His Life! Also: Missy-Paul E., Rick Rude, Curt Hennig, Stevie Ray, Diamond Exchange.
Oct. 1991: Exclusive Preview & Analysis: SummerSlam '91. Also: Savage & Liz, Hogan & Warrior, Leg Luger, Santana-Atlas, Steve Williams, Studd-Zenk.
Nov. 1991: Our Investigation Reveals ... The Truth Behind The Hogan-Savage Connection. Also: Lex Luger, Ric Flair, War Games, Mounties, foreign objects.
Dec. 1991: A Night To Remember: SummerSlam Provides Heat For The Cold Months Ahead. Also: Alexandra York, Simmons-Luger, Lane & Cornette, Leatherface.
Jan. 1992: *Inside Wrestling* Reveals: Sting's Memo From A Maniac! Also: Freebirds, Blackhearts, Bret Hart, Dusty Rhodes, Mike Rotundo.
Feb. 1992: A Reign Of Pain: Lex Luger—The Agony Of A World Champion. Also: Bret Hart, Patriot, Rick Rude, Enforcers, Thesz & Rogers.

March 1992: Who's Winning The Hogan-Flair Wars? Also: Steiners, Survivor Series, Enforcers-Rhodes & Steamboat, Johnny B. Badd.
May 1992: War! WrestleMania Will Be Sid And Hulk's Battleground. Also: Jushin Liger, Eddie Gilbert, Repo Man, Austin-Blossom, Tri-State & UWF.
June 1992: Sting: A New Champion, A New Era. Also: Hulk Hogan, Harley Race, Marcus Bagwell, Tony Atlas, IRS & DiBiase.
July 1992: Is Regaining The WWF Title An Impossible Undertaking? Also: Sherri & Shawn, Big Van Vader, Gordy & Williams, Kamala, Joe Savoldi.
Aug. 1992: The Closer Flair Gets ... The More Savage "Macho Man" Becomes. Also: Jack-Badd, Brian Christopher, LOD & Ellering, Taylor & Valentine, Dusty Wolfe.
Sept. 1992: Hulk Hogan's "Retirement": Why The WWF Will Never Let Him Rest In Peace. Also: War Games, Big Van Vader, Kamala, Marty Jannetty, U.K.
Oct. 1992: SummerSlam '92: Exclusive Preview & Analysis. Also: S. Steiner-Muta, Ron Simmons, Eddie Gilbert, Eric Embry.
Nov. 1992: The Great American Crash: Vader Crushes Sting For The WCW World Title. Also: Ric Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Madusa, Warlord & Barbarian-Bushwhackers, top rope rule.
Dec. 1992: Hey, Ric Flair: Stop Whining And Start Winning. Also: Razor Ramon, Heavenly Bodies, Jeff Jarrett, Windham & D. Rhodes, NWA title.
Jan. 1993 (Special Edition): 80,355 Fans Can't Be Wrong: This Was The Greatest SummerSlam Ever! Also: WWF-USWA, LOD, Sting-Simmons, Bret-Shango, Rude-Dustin.
March 1993: Who Controls The Balance Of Power In The WWF? Also: Shawn Michaels, Nikita Koloff, Windham-Dustin, Survivor Series, Rod Price.
April 1993: New Blood! The Wrestlers Who Could Revitalize The WWF In '93. Also: Z-Man & Gunn, Sting-Vader, Dangerous Alliance, Ric Flair.
May 1993: Exclusive WrestleMania IX Match Analysys. Also: Andre the Giant, Pillman & Austin, Great Muta, Headshrinkers-Steiners, 2 Cold Scorpio.
Feb. 1994: Our Holiday Wish List For 1994. Also: Hogan-Savage-Bret, Hacksaw Duggan, Doinks, Hollywood Blonds, Steven Regal.
April 1994 (Special Issue): The *Inside Wrestling* Computer Tournament. Also: Lex Luger, Starrcade, Yoko-Fuji, Ric Flair, Curt Hennig, Funk-Sabu.
May 1994: Lex Luger & Bret Hart: Their Greatest Triumphs, Their Gravest Tragedies. Also: Flair-Rude, Rick Morton, Heenan-Bockwinkel, Brian Christopher, Yoko-Booger.
June 1994: Wake Up, Rick Steamboat: Ric Flair Is Still "Slick" Ric! Also: Jimmy Snuka, Tony Anthony, IRS, Bruise Brothers, Alundra Blayze, Freebirds.
July 1994 (Special Issue): A Look Into Wrestling's Future: You Won't Believe What You'll See! Also: Ron Simmons, Sting, Earthquake-Booger, Bob Armstrong, Diesel.
Oct. 1994 (Special Issue): WCW Midyear Report. Also: Doink, Vader-Race, Mabel, Dory Funk Jr., Owen-Bret, Hall of Fame.
March 1995: Predictions 1995. Also: Nastys, Razor Ramon, Tasmaniac, Kid-Man O'-War, Pillman & Hogan.
June 1995: The Beginning Of The End? Will Hulk Hogan Get Burned By Friendly Fire? Also: Steve Austin, Gangstas, Public Enemy, Bret-Owen, Jeff Jarrett.
Aug. 1995: The Untold Truth: WrestleMania X—The Winners And Losers: Also: Johnny B. Badd, Bam Bam Bigelow, John Studd, Bubba-Sting.
Oct. 1995 (Special Issue): WCW Midyear Report. Also: Randy Savage, Bret & Cactus, Sting, Diesel, Hawk.
Nov. 1995: One Defense In Four Months?! Strip Hulk Hogan Of The Title—Now! Also: Alex Wright, Tatanka, King of Ring, Chris Benoit, Backlund-Clinton.
Dec. 1995: White With Fright, Green With Envy: Why The Undertaker Had To Bury Kama. Also: Vader-Hogan, Warrior-Renegade, Gangstas-PE, Waylon Mercy, Heavenly Bodies.
Jan. 1996: Our Holiday Wish List For 1996! Also: Scott Norton, Sid Vicious, Psicosis-Misterio, Barry Horowitz, Sabu.
Feb. 1996: Wrestling's Top Stars: What 1996 Has In Store For Them! Also: Goldust, Sherri-Parker, Mikey Whipwreck, Smokin' Gunns.
March 1996: His Excellency! How Bret Masterminded Diesel's Execution. Also: Jeff Jarrett, Giant, Jim Cornette, Survivor Series, Eddie Guerrero.
June 1996: Luger Or Hogan? If Sting Makes The Wrong Choice, He's Through!. Also: Road Warriors, Roddy Piper, Ahmed Johnson, Raven, Al Snow
Aug. 1996: The Greening Of Wrestling: How Sting & Shawn Will Become $50,000,000 Men! Also: Bodydonnas, Giant, Guerrera-Misterio, George Steele, Goldust & Marlena.
Oct. 1996 (Special Issue): WCW Midyear Report. Also: Jake Roberts, Yokozuna, Giant-Konnan, Ahmed Johnson, Chris Jericho, strutters.
Nov. 1996: The Steiners: Feasting On A Buffet Of Violence. Also: Shawn Michaels, Sabu-Douglas, King of Ring, Eddie Guerrero, truck stop terror.
Dec. 1996: Three Women For Four Horsemen? The Hot Search For A Fourth Filly Has Begun! Also: Sunny & Gunns, Giant, Goldust, Cornette & Hart, Jerry Jarrett.
Holiday 1996 (Special Issue): The Tombstone: Wresling's Deadliest Finisher. Also: 1997 calendar, "Pyscho" Sid, Benoit-Misterio, Steiners-NWO, Pit Bull I, Jushin Liger.
Feb. 1997: Trouble In Egoville: Is There An NWO Within The NWO? Also: Chris Candido, Bret-Shawn, Ric Flair, Joey Styles, Liger-Benoit.
June 1997: Ahmed Johnson Reveals: "I Almost Joined The Nation Of Domination." Also: Mankind, Lex Luger, NWO, Davey Boy Smith, Jerry Graham.
Oct. 1997 (Special Issue): WCW Midyear Report. Also: LOD-PG-13, Rob Van Dam, Flair & Horsemen, Ken Shamrock, McMichael-White, Madd & Mama Maxxine.
Nov. 1997: WWF War Zone: Interfederation Battles Rock The Sport! Also: Ahmed Johnson, Curt Hennig, *Nueva* World Order, Chris Candido, Dan Severn.
Dec. 1997: Losing Is Bull! Has Dennis Rodman Had It With Hulk Hogan? Also: Steve Austin, Jarrett & Debra, Harts, Funk-Francine, Chris Jericho.
Holiday 1997 (Special Issue): The Steiners' Million-Dollar Gamble! Also: 1998 calendar, Alex Wright, The Patriot, Sgt. Slaughter, Turnbuckle Turkey Awards.
March 1998: Hart Transplant! The Truth Behind Bret's Defection To WCW. Also: Steve McMichael, Bam Bam Bigelow, Steve Austin, Disco Inferno.
April 1998 (Special Issue): The 1998 *Inside Wrestling* Computer Tournament. Also: Scott Hall, Marlena, Chris Benoit, Gunn & James, Sabu-Sandman.
May 1998: Is The WWF Screwing Another Hart? Also: Steve Austin, Dallas Page, Booker T, Larry Zbyszko, Al Snow.
June 1998: Exclusive! Steve Austin: The 10 Men Who Inspired His Toughness. Also: Dusty & Dustin, Perry Saturn, Mortis, Jeff Jarrett.
July 1998 (Special Issue): Top Stars Answer Your Personal Questions. Also: Jericho-Misterio Jr., Steve Austin, Sunny, Scott Steiner, Christopher-Michinoku.
Aug. 1998: WrestleMania XIV: The *Real* Winners And Losers. Also: Sunny, Curt Hennig, Dan Severn, Ultimo Dragon.
Sept. 1998: Power Surge! While The NWO Fiddles ... These Men Are Burning. Also: Sable, Ultimo-Guerrero, DeGeneration X-Owen, Rocky Maivia, Mad Russian-Rambo.
Oct. 1998 (Special Issue): WCW Midyear Report. Also: Steve Austin, Taka Michinoku, Al Snow, Hollywood Hogan, Roddy Piper, Misawa-Kiwada.
Nov. 1998: Austin vs. Goldberg: Who Would Win And Why. Also: Bret Hart, Dude Love, Junkyard Dog, Helmsley-Michaels, Ray-Booker.
Dec. 1998: DDP's Big Bang Theories: Cutting Loose On Life, Love, & The Ultimate Buzz. Also: Sable-Jackie, Mankind, Hogan-Horace, D-Lo, APW.
Holiday 1998 (Special Issue): Kane: Still Haunted By His Day Of Glory. Also: Eddie Guerrero, Stevie Ray, Val Venis, turnbuckle turkeys, bonus calendar.
Jan. 1999: Seasons Greetings With A Bang (DDP & Kimberly). Also: Severn-Shamrock, Konnan, Arn, Undertaker-Kane, Chris Jericho.
Feb. 1999: Wrestling's Top Stars: What's Ahead For '99! Also: Hogan & Hart, D-Lo, Ken Shamrock, Slaughter-Snow.
March 1999: Estrange Situation! Insider Reveals: "Shane Still Resents His Father! Also: X-Pac, Hogan-Warrior, Jesse Ventura, Billy Kidman, Scott Norton.
April 1999 (Special Issue): The 1999 *Inside Wrestling* Computer Tournament. Also: Bossman-McMahon, Steiner & Bischoff, Hollywood Hogan, Wrath, Blue Meanie.
May 1999: Team Corporate's WrestleMania Scare! Mankind's Title Victory Could Have Spoiled Everything! Also: New Age Outlaws, Eddie Guerrero, Triple-H, Bill Goldberg.
June 1999: Still In-Vince-Ible! What Will It Take To Topple This Man? Also: Rey Misterio Jr., ECW, Triple-H, NWO, Blue Meanie.
July 1999 (Special Issue): Top Stars Answer Your Personal Questions. Also: Vince McMahon, Vincent, Eric Bischoff, Giant Baba.
Aug. 1999: WrestleMania XV: The *Real* Winners And Losers! Also: Vam Dam-Lynn, Saturn, Goldust, Steiner-Bagwell.
Sept. 1999: Shane, Come Back! Can Vince Survive Without His Son? Also: Bret Hart, Rick Rude, Ken Shamrock, Hogan-Flair-Page-Goldberg, Tajiri-Crazy.
Oct. 1999 (Special Issue): WCW Midyear Report. Also: Mankind & Shamrock, Snow-Holly, Sting, Edge, Flair-Robinson, AIWF.
Nov. 1999: Crash At The Bash! Enter Sid, Viciously! Also: Undertaker-Austin, Acolytes, Master P, Debra, Justin Credible.
Dec. 1999: The Rock: What Makes You Love/Hate This Man? Also: Sting, Shane Douglas, Droz, Piper-Bagwell, Taz.
Holiday 1999 (Special Issue): The 1999 Turnbuckle Turkey Awards. Also: Sting, Dogg-Gunn, Undertaker, Steve Corino, 2000 calendar.
Jan. 2000: Dreaming Of An Extreme Christmas (Tommy Dreamer & Francine). Also: Goldberg, Al Snow, Billy Gunn, Doring & Road Kill, cigar-chompers.
Feb. 2000: Wrestling's Top Stars: What's Ahead For 2000! Vince-Bulldog, Mike Awesome, Sid Vicious, Gorilla Monsoon.
March 2000: Kevin Nash & Scott Hall: Getting Inside The Outsiders' Heads. Also: Dudleys, Jerry Lynn, Vince-DX, Kimberly, Zero Gravity.
April 2000 (Special Issue): The Y2K Computer Tournament. Also: Jarrett-PTB, Christopher & Taylor, Lou E. Dangerously, Lawler-Fantastico.
May 2000: Hey, Scott, Watch Your Back! The NWO Is Setting You Up! Also: Hacksaw Duggan, Rikishi Phatu, Test, Mike Awesome.
June 2000: Chris Jericho's Deadliest Enemy: His Ego! Also: Tazz, Kidman-Torrie, Nash-Funk, Buff Bagwell, New Jack.
July 2000 (Special Issue): It's True! Kurt Angle Will Be Hotter Than The Rock In Six Months! Also: Elizabeth, Steve Blackman, Norman Smiley, Spike Dudley, personal questions.
Aug. 2000: WrestleMania 2000: The *Real* Winners & Losers! Also: Dustin-Funk, Eddie Guerrero, ECW extreme?, WCW analysis.
Sept. 2000: Those Damn Dudleys! Is There An Evil Act Fans Won't Cheer? Also: Billy Kidman, Taka Michinoku, Yoshihiro Tajiri, Jeff Jarrett.
Oct. 2000 (Special Issue): WCW Midyear Report. Also: Kurt Angle, Malenko-Saturn, Lance Storm, Tori, Jumbo Tsuruta, ECW headliners.
Nov. 2000: When Will Triple-H Proclaim ... "I'm Sick Of Being A McMahon!" Also: Trish Stratus, Shane Douglas, Hulk Hogan, Kevin Nash, Yoshihiro Tajiri.
[FULL-COLOR BEGINNING WITH JANUARY 2001]
Jan. 2001: Olympic Games: What Kind Of Angle Has Curt Been Running? Also: Tazz-Lawler, Big Vito, Stacy Keibler, Chris Benoit, Kid Kash, Chyna.
March 2001: Who Knows The Rock's Role? Is He Ditching Wrestling For Hollywood? Also: Trish, Billy Gunn, Jarrett-Sting, C.W. Anderson, Booker T.
May 2001: The WrestleMania Tip Sheet: What You Must Know About The Event Of The Year! Also: Scott Steiner, Dudleys, Malenko & Lita, Shane Douglas, Raven.
Aug. 2001: Game Face! We Haven't Seen Hunter's Ugly Side ... But Just Wait! Also: WWF vs. WCW, Kurt Angle, Vince McMahon, Booker T, Hardys & Lita, Haas brothers, WCW babes.
Oct. 2001: Will Debra Ice Stone-Cold? Also: Vince vs. Shane, Chyna, William Regal, former Big Three stars.
Dec. 2001: The WWF-WCW Dream Matches We Really Want! Also: Tazz, Dudleys, Perry Saturn, Johnny Valentine, 100 WCW facts.

☐ MAR 78	☐ DEC 84	☐ AUG 88	☐ AUG 91	☐ DEC 95	☐ MAY 99
☐ APR 78	☐ MAR 85	☐ OCT 88	☐ SEP 91	☐ JAN 96	☐ JUN 99
☐ DEC 78	☐ JUN 85	☐ NOV 88	☐ OCT 91	☐ FEB 96	☐ JUL 99
☐ APR 79	☐ SEP 85	☐ DEC 88	☐ NOV 91	☐ MAR 96	☐ AUG 99
☐ NOV 80	☐ JAN 86	☐ FEB 89	☐ DEC 91	☐ JUN 96	☐ SEP 99
☐ AUG 80	☐ MAR 86	☐ JUN 89	☐ JAN 92	☐ AUG 96	☐ OCT 99
☐ JAN 81	☐ APR 86	☐ JUL 89	☐ FEB 92	☐ OCT 96	☐ NOV 99
☐ APR 81	☐ JUN 86	☐ AUG 89	☐ MAR 92	☐ NOV 96	☐ DEC 99
☐ MAY 81	☐ JUL 86	☐ SEP 89	☐ MAY 92	☐ DEC 96	☐ HOL 99
☐ SEP 81	☐ AUG 86	☐ OCT 89	☐ JUN 92	☐ HOL 96	☐ JAN 00
☐ MAR 82	☐ SEP 86	☐ NOV 89	☐ JUL 92	☐ FEB 97	☐ FEB 00
☐ APR 82	☐ OCT 86	☐ DEC 89	☐ AUG 92	☐ JUN 97	☐ MAR 00
☐ MAY 82	☐ NOV 86	☐ JAN 90	☐ SEP 92	☐ OCT 97	☐ APR 00
☐ JUN 82	☐ DEC 86	☐ FEB 90	☐ OCT 92	☐ NOV 97	☐ MAY 00
☐ AUG 82	☐ JAN 87	☐ MAR 90	☐ NOV 92	☐ DEC 97	☐ JUN 00
☐ OCT 82	☐ FEB 87	☐ APR 90	☐ DEC 92	☐ HOL 97	☐ JUL 00
☐ NOV 82	☐ MAR 87	☐ MAY 90	☐ JAN 93	☐ MAR 98	☐ AUG 00
☐ DEC 82	☐ APR 87	☐ JUN 90	☐ MAR 93	☐ APR 98	☐ SEP 00
☐ FEB 83	☐ MAY 87	☐ JUL 90	☐ APR 93	☐ MAY 98	☐ OCT 00
☐ MAR 83	☐ JUN 87	☐ AUG 90	☐ MAY 93	☐ JUN 98	☐ NOV 00
☐ APR 83	☐ JUL 87	☐ SEP 90	☐ FEB 94	☐ JUL 98	☐ JAN 01
☐ JUN 83	☐ AUG 87	☐ OCT 90	☐ APR 94	☐ AUG 98	☐ MAR 01
☐ SEP 83	☐ SEP 87	☐ NOV 90	☐ MAY 94	☐ SEP 98	☐ MAY 01
☐ NOV 83	☐ OCT 87	☐ DEC 90	☐ JUN 94	☐ OCT 98	☐ AUG 01
☐ APR 84	☐ NOV 87	☐ JAN 91	☐ JUL 94	☐ NOV 98	☐ OCT 01
☐ JUN 84	☐ DEC 87	☐ FEB 91	☐ OCT 94	☐ DEC 98	☐ DEC 01
☐ JUL 84	☐ JAN 88	☐ MAR 91	☐ MAR 95	☐ HOL 98	
☐ AUG 84	☐ FEB 88	☐ APR 91	☐ JUN 95	☐ JAN 99	
☐ SEP 84	☐ MAR 88	☐ MAY 91	☐ AUG 95	☐ FEB 99	
☐ OCT 84	☐ MAY 88	☐ JUN 91	☐ OCT 95	☐ MAR 99	
☐ NOV 84	☐ JUN 88	☐ JUL 91	☐ NOV 95	☐ APR 99	

INSIDE WRESTLING

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 EACH

Please send me the back issues I've checked. I enclose $_____ as payment in full.
PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

In case of a sellout, indicate substitute choice _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent boat mail, and $3 for every back issue to be sent airmail. International money order in U.S. funds only.

Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery

5773/09-01/4c

arena reports

We encourage promoters and fans to send results to:
"Arena Reports," c/o
Pro Wrestling Illustrated,
Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034
Fax results to **(215) 540-0146.**
E-mail results to **PWIQueen@aol.com.**

Spotlight Card of the Month

GREENVILLE, SC—*WWF Raw* at the Bi-Lo Center: **Brock Lesnar** defeated **Rico Constantino** ... **Randy Orton** beat **Ron Waterman** ... **Crash Holly** beat **Onyx** ... **Perry Saturn** defeated **Sho Funaki** ... **Christian** & **Test** beat **Albert** & **Scotty Too Hotty** ... **Rob Van Dam**, **Spike Dudley**, & **Tazz** beat **The Dudley Boyz** & **Booker T** ... Intercontinental champion **William Regal** beat **Edge** by disqualification ... **Val Venis** wrestled to a no-contest with **Mr. Perfect** ... **Billy Gunn** & **Chuck Palumbo** defeated **The Big Show** & **Kane** ... **Triple-H** & **The Rock** beat **Kurt Angle** & **Chris Jericho.**
(01-21-02)

—"Spotlight" photos by Vern Verna

UNITED STATES

ARIZONA

TUCSON—WWF at the Convention Center: **Spike Dudley** beat **Rico Constantino** ... **Brock Lesnar** defeated **Perry Saturn** ... **Billy Gunn** & **Chuck Palumbo** beat **Bradshaw** & **Faarooq** ... Intercontinental champion **William Regal** beat **Edge** ... Hardcore champion **The Undertaker** defeated **The Big Show** ... **Mr. Perfect** & **Big Bossman** defeated **Crash Holly** & **Randy Orton** ... Women's champion **Trish Stratus** pinned **Jazz** ... **Kurt Angle** defeated **Rikishi** ... **Steve Austin** beat **Booker T.**
(02-02-02)

—Michael West

CALIFORNIA

SHERMAN OAKS—Millennium Pro Wrestling at the Valley City JCC: **Jason Allgood**, **XTC**, & **Pinoy Boy** defeated **Scott Lost**, **Joey Ryan**, & **Lucky** ... **The Cash Money Brothers** defeated **Lil' Cholo** & **Silver Tiger** ... **Frankie Kazarian** beat **Phenomenal Phil** ... **Super Dragon** beat **Spanky** ... **The Ballard Brothers** beat **Rising Son** & **Excalibur** ... **Los Cubanitos** defeated **Aggravated Assault** to become the first MPW tag team champions ... Heavyweight champion **Tech 9** beat **Christopher Daniels.**
(01-12-02)

—Brandon Ridenour

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON—East Coast Wrestling Association at St. Matthew's Parish Hall: **Joey Matthews** & **Christian York** beat **Japanese Pool Boy** & **Billy Bax** ... **Inferno**, **Ryan Wing**, & **Ruffhouse** beat **Thunder**, **Benny Stoltzfus**, & **Abunai** ... **Ryan Wing** & **Inferno** beat **Johnny Maxx** & **Buck Wylde** ... **Stryker** defeated **Wagner Brown** ... **Mr. Ooh La La** & **Barry Casino** defeated **Mozart Fontaine** & **E.S. Easton** ... **Billy Fives** & **Xavier** defeated **Scoot Andrews** & **Red** ... **American Dragon** & **Low-Ki** won a three-way steel cage match against **Joel** & **Jose Maximo** and **J-Team** ... **Cheetah Master** defeated **Prince Nana.**
(01-12-02)

—Brett Schwan

FLORIDA

QUINCY—Southeastern Extreme Wrestling at the Agriculture Center: **Kid U.S.A.** defeated **Scream** ... **Luscious Lenny** defeated **Jason Hero** ... **Irish Blade** beat **Buddy Condrey** to win the U.S. title ... **Texas Rough Rider** beat **Doom** ... **Venom** beat **Forsaken** and **Ceazar** in a three-way hardcore match ... **Miss Teri** beat **Hellcat** ... **The Backstreet Brawler** defeated **Luke Goldberg.**
(01-12-02)

—Mitchell Bowman

ST. PETERSBURG—IPW Hardcore Wrestling at the Florida WrestlePlex: **Mike Sullivan** & **Rastaman** defeated NWA Wildside heavyweight champion **A.J. Styles** & **Jimmy Rave** ... TV champion **Jeff Bradley** defeated **David Young** ... Tag team champions **Quickiemart** defeated **Nigel McGuinness** & **Flesh Gordon** ... IPW Hardcore champion **Chaos** defeated **Snow** ... **The Shane Brothers** beat **Fabian Stokes** & **Sinn** ... WWC Caribbean champion **Cuban Assassin** defeated **Axis** ... **Dr. Heresy** defeated **Don Juan DeSanto**

Two WWF stars of the future (at least everyone hopes so), Brock Lesnar and Rico Constantino, did battle in the evening's first dark match. Although Constantino is very talented, Lesnar's combination of power and agility were too much for him to handle.

in a Tampa streetfight ... **Dagon Briggs**, **Naphtali**, & **Ashe Corvan** defeated **Kid Lethal**, **Roderick Strong**, & **Kamikaze Kid** ... **Concession Boy** pinned **The Bug** ... **Pat McGroin** & **Pat Powers** defeated **Big Daddy Mark** & **Special Ed**.
(01-12-02)

—Kyle Nibblet

GEORGIA

ATLANTA—WWF Royal Rumble pay-per-view at Philips Arena: World tag team champions **Spike Dudley** & **Tazz** defeated **The Dudley Boyz** when Tazz forced **D-Von Dudley** to submit ... **William Regal** pinned Intercontinental champion **Edge** to win the title ... Women's champion **Trish Stratus** pinned **Jazz** (**Jacquelyn** was the guest referee) ... **Ric Flair** defeated **Vince McMahon** by submission in a streetfight ... World champion **Chris Jericho** pinned **The Rock** ... **Triple-H** won the 30-man Royal Rumble, last eliminating **Kurt Angle**.
(01-20-02)

—Vern Verna

GRIFFIN—AWA at the Country Rock Cafe: **Big Wood** & **"Skinny" Kenny Arden** beat **Joey Grendal** & **Silky Boom Boom** ... **Loon-A-Tic** beat **The Nightmare** ... **The Patriot** pinned **Sweet Daddy** ... **Johnny Grunge** defeated **Johnny Swinger** ... **Adam Jacobs** defeated **David Young** and **Jimmy Rave** in a three-way dance ... **Buff Bagwell** defeated **Eddie Guerrero**.
(01-16-02)

—David Pierce

CARROLLTON—Turnbuckle Championship Wrestling at the TCW Arena: **Sonny Siaki** beat **Palm Beach Boy Johnny** ... **Jorge Estrada** defeated **Jason Sugarman** ... **Ron Studd** defeated **The Palm Beach Boys** in a handicap match ... **Ron Studd** beat heavyweight champion **Scotty Riggs** ... **Dustin Rhodes** & **Barry Windham** beat tag team champions **South Side Trash** in a table match.
(01-05-02)

—Laurel Register

ILLINOIS

GRAYS LAKE—Midwest Championship Wrestling at the College of Lake County: **Brandon Blaze** won a three-way dance against **Tweak** and **Damian** ... **Valyk** defeated **Steve Stone** ... **Eric Priest** defeated **Brad Bradley** ... **Jay Jensen** defeated **Acid** ... **Colt Cabana** defeated **C.M. Punk** ... **Chris Chetti** defeated TV champ **Magnificent Mike** in a "four corners of death" match to win the title ... Tag team champs **Jeffro King** & **Black Dagger** defeated **Danny Dominion** & **Ace Steele** ... Heavyweight champ **Scoot Andrews** defeated **Vic Capri**.
(01-26-02)

—Dick Patrick

INDIANA

INDIANAPOLIS—Wild Championship Wrestling Outlaws at Premo Family Amusements: **The Black Widow** pinned **Charley Boy** ... **Shawn Cook** defeated **Ray Logan** ... **Uncle Ernie** & **Sgt. Eddie Wilson** defeated **Shiloh Hunter** & **Johnny Blaze** ... **Drucilla Davie** pinned **Angelfire** ... **Guy Lombardo** defeated TV champion **Don Basher** by disqualification ... **Indiana Kidd Jr.** beat heavyweight champion **Dozer** in a non-title match.
(01-26-02)

—Randy Klemme

CANNELTON—American Wrestling Council at the Community Center: **Justin Thunder** pinned **Kid Dragon** ... Cruiserweight champion **Problem Child** defeated **Gravedigger** ... **Chris Kaine** beat heavyweight champion **Kage** to win the title ... **Moonpuppy** wrestled to a no-contest with **Sonya Blackhawk** ... **Slate** pinned American champion **Steel City Stalker** to win the title ... **Mr. Fitness** defeated **The Outlaw** ... **Steel City Stalker** & **Kage** beat **The Southern Hangmen** to win the tag team title.
(01-19-02)

—Brad Smithson

COLUMBUS—Hoosier Pro Wrestling at the Family Arts Building: **Morbid** defeated **Wampus Cat** ... **Tello Ozeata** defeated **Ric Cox** ... **Psycho** defeated **Chris Blaze** ... **Joey Venture** defeated **Mercedes** by disqualification ... **Michael Shane** defeated **Tiny Tim** ... **Bobo Brazil Jr.**, **Big Dada**, & **Barlow Whatley** defeated **Ricky Murdock**, **Austin James**, & **Scotty Lovins** ... Heavyweight champ **Tommy Ray Sands** defeated **Dave Dynasty** by disqualification.
(01-05-02)

—Dave Christian

JEFFERSONVILLE—Ohio Valley Wrestling at the OVW Arena: **Payne** defeated **Shelton Benjamin** by disqualification ... **Nick Dinsmore** & **Rob Conway** defeated **Sean O'Haire** & **Mr. Black** ... **Johnny Spade** & **Big Bad John** defeated **David Flair** & **Sean O'Haire** ... **Flash** pinned **The Machine**.
(01-02-02)

—Aaron Wilson

KENTUCKY

HARLAN—Independent Pro Wrestling at the National Guard Armory: **Mad Max** beat **Rugged Ronnie** ... **The War Machine** & **The White Scorpion** defeated **William Lightfoot** & **Bobby Boogie** ... **Brian Williams** beat **The Kentucky Bad Ass** ... Heavyweight champion **Jerry Thunder** defeated **Mr. Universe** ... **The Death Riders** beat **The Ghost Riders** for the tag team championship.
(01-05-02)

—Mark Hatmaker

MAINE

LEWISTON—Eastern Wrestling Alliance at the High School: New England champion **El Tornado** pinned **Stefan Ramsey** ... **Chris Venom** beat **K.L. Murphy** ... **Brian Black** defeated **Justin Powers** ... **Alex Arion**, **Frankie Armadillo**, & **Flash McKenna** beat **Adam Hastey**, **Larry Huntley**, & **Louie Barboza** ... **Damian Houston** pinned **Johnny Curtis** ... Tag team champions **The Damned** defeated **Stefan Ramsey** & **Dominik** ... Heavyweight champion **Dr. Heresy** pinned **Adam Booker**.
(01-26-02)

—Dan Herman

MARYLAND

HAGERSTOWN—National Wrestling League at the House of Pain Training Center: **Big White** beat **Brooklyn Panther** by disqualification ... **Hyjinx** pinned **Jack Jackson** ... Women's champion **Madison** beat **Trixie** by reverse decision ... **Jesse Valentine** beat **Slayer** ... **Cashis Carter** beat **The American Jackass** ... **Leslie Leatherman** pinned **Jeremy Stoned** ... **Spazman Anthony** & **John Rambo** won a triple threat match against **Din Mak** & **Zero Tolerance** and **Kevin Featherstone** & **Kid Extreme** ... Tag team champs **The Latin Tornado** & **Jack Hammer** beat **Aidiean** & **Flex Fenom** by disqualification.
(01-05-02)

—Michael DiMuzio

Randy Orton doesn't appear to be too comfortable atop the shoulders of fellow developmental prospect Ron Waterman. Who could blame him? A former Ultimate Fighting standout, Waterman is capable of inflicting a lot of pain on the third-generation star.

MASSACHUSETTS

CHARLTON—South Coast Championship Wrestling at Bay Path High School: **Portuguese Stallion** beat **Troy Bonds** ... Interstate champion **Caesar Suave** beat **Shawn Candido** ... **Chris Blackheart** & **Mr. Wrestling IV** beat **The Kreeper** & **Mike Sparks** ... **Tony Atlas** beat **Don Vega** ... **Power Company** beat **Jim Nastic** & **Stryker** ... **Ariel** beat **Crazy Mexican** by countout ... Heavyweight champ **Johnny Angel** beat **G.Q. Smooth** ... **Tiny the Terrible** beat **Little Killa**.
(01-12-02)

—Carlos Arenas

LOWELL—Chaotic Wrestling at the Elks Lodge: Tag team champions **John Walters** & **Vince Vicallo** defeated **Andy Jaxx** & **Curt Daniels** ...**Gino Martino** defeated **Cueball** ... Light heavyweight champion **Dukes Dalton** defeated **Pete Mulloy** ... **Ali Muhammed** defeated **Nicholas**

Sometimes it appears as if Perry Saturn adds a few new tattoos every week! Sho Funaki wasn't thinking about Saturn's unusual appearance at this time, though. He was trying to think of ways to escape Saturn's clutches.

the heavyweight title (former NHL star **Tony Twist** was the guest referee).
(01-25-02)

—Pat Farren

WENZVILLE—Mid-West Powerhouse Wrestling at the Convention & Expo Center: **Master G Dawg** pinned **The Crocodile Kid** ... **Chico S. Loco** pinned **Jay Stylz** ... **Cousin Zeke McCoy** & **Rick Ruby** defeated **Marcus Mansfield** & **The Stud** in a "kiss my grits" match ... **Tommy Cross** pinned **Christian Haze** in a no-disqualification match ... **Scott Michaels** pinned **Osiris** ... Heavyweight champion **Damian Blade** wrestled to a double-disqualification with **The Searcher**.
(01-12-02)

—Chip Leffler

NEVADA

RENO—WWF at the Lawlor Events Center: **Spike Dudley** pinned **Rico Constantino** ... **Brock Lesnar** pinned **Perry Saturn** ... **Billy Gunn** & **Chuck Palumbo** defeated **Bradshaw** & **Faarooq** ... Intercontinental champion **William Regal** pinned **Edge** ... Hardcore champion **The Undertaker** defeated **The Big Show** by submission ... **Big Bossman** & **Mr. Perfect** defeated **Crash Holly** & **Randy Orton** ... Women's champion **Trish Stratus** beat **Jazz** ... **Kurt Angle** pinned **Rikishi** ... **Steve Austin** pinned **Booker T**.
(02-03-02)

—Matt Brock

Richards ... **Big Mike Studd** defeated **Scarecrow** ... **Chris Harvard** defeated **Arch Kincaid** ... Heavyweight champion **Luis Ortiz** defeated **Aaron Stevens**.
(01-05-02)

—Rich Palladino

MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY—World League Wrestling at the Big Shots Recreation Center: **Matt Murphy** defeated **Marc Godecker** ... **Derek McQuinn** wrestled to a time-limit draw with **Josh Besore** ... **Matt Murphy** & **Miss Natural** defeated **Marc Godecker** & **Heather Savage** in a mixed tag team match ... Tag team champions **Trevor Rhodes** & **Bull Schmitt** defeated **Wade Chism** & **Brandon Walker** ... Heavyweight champion **The Drill Instructor** defeated **Butch Reed** in a Texas death match when Reed could not answer the bell after the fifth fall.
(02-02-02)

—Mike Winston

GREENFIELD—World League Wrestling at the High School: **Derek McQuinn** beat **Josh Besore** ... **Wade Chism** defeated **Marc Godeker** ... Ladies champion **Heather Savage** beat **Miss Natural** ... Tag team champions **Trevor Rhodes** & **Bull Schmitt** defeated **The Gold Exchange** ... Heavyweight champion **The Drill Instructor** beat **Butch Reed** and **Ron Harris** in a three-way match.
(01-26-02)

—Pat Farren

IMPERIAL—World League Wrestling at Seckman High School: **Josh Besore** defeated **Derek McQuinn** ... Ladies champion **Heather Savage** defeated **Miss Natural** ... Tag team champions **Trevor Rhodes** & **Bull Schmitt** defeated **The Gold Exchange** ... **The Drill Instructor** defeated **Butch Reed** and **Ron Harris** in a three-way match to win

LAS VEGAS—Ultimate Wrestling Federation at the UWF: **Johnny Rage** defeated **American Gigolo** ... **Brady A** defeated **Joker** ... **Damian Dollaz** defeated **Sinful** ... Tag team champions **Dick Sicily** & **The Don** defeated **Johnny Rage** in a handicap match ... **Major Maniac** & **Jesus** defeated tag team champs **Dick Sicily** & **The Don** for the title ... Hardcore champ **Timmy Twisted** defeated **Funnybone** ... **Rush** defeated **The Big Q** ... **Jason Riggs** defeated **Willie Hardee** ... **Solo** wrestled heavyweight champion **X** to a no-contest .
(01-11-02)

—Shaun MacMann

NEW JERSEY

KEANSBURG—NWA-Jersey at the High School: **The Twin Tackles** defeated **Tony Flo** & **The Prophet** ... **Joel Maximo** won a three-way match against **Red** and **Quiet Storm** ... Heavyweight champ **Tom Brandi** beat **Nova** by reverse decision ... **The Twin Tackles** beat tag team champs **The Power Company** by disqualification ... **Ace Darling** beat Keansburg High School coach **Frank Kuhl** ... Hardcore champ **The Wall** beat **Crowbar** in a ladder match.
(01-27-02)

—Brett A. Schwan

WEST PATERSON—IWF at Camp IWF: **Biggie Biggs** pinned **Mike Fashion** ... **Erik Andretti** beat **Felix Leon** ... **Shane O'Brien** & **Ed Moore** defeated **Shawn Donavan** & **Pierce St. John** ... **Rob Eckos** won a handicap match against **Damian Adams** & **Mr. Mike Winner** ... **Jason Havok** beat **Hadrian** ... **John Royal** beat **Dylan Black** ... Heavyweight champion **Roman** beat **Kevin Knight** in a streetfight.
(01-25-02)

—Dorothy Podsvirow

NEW YORK

ROCHESTER—New Millennium Wrestling at the Ukrainian Club: **Demetrius** defeated **Crusher**, **I.B. Green**, **D.A. Thunder**, & **Orpheus** in a "hardcore

Buh Buh Ray Dudley couldn't quite get a three-count against fellow ECW alumnus Tazz in a spirited six-man bout on *Raw*. He, D-Von Dudley, and Booker T (the only non-ECW alumnus in the bout) ended up losing to Tazz, Spike Dudley, and Rob Van Dam.

hell" match ... **Kevin Dunn** defeated **Shockwave** and **Marcos Martini** in a three-way match to win the cruiserweight title ... **Jason Atlas** defeated **Hellcat** to win the heavyweight title ... **Hate Machine** defeated **Eric Everlast** & **Jim Tanner** ... **Big Cat Lemmer** defeated **Chip Stetson** to win the TV title ... **Sabre** defeated **Jeff Starr** ... **Johnny Walker** & **Hellcat** defeated tag team champs **The Outcast Killers** to win the title.
(01-26-02)

—Todd Brantley

SCHENECTADY—World of Hurt Wrestling at the TNT Sportatorium: Lightweight champion **Shockwave** beat **Kid Krush** ... U.S. champ **Thornn** beat **Suisykon** ... **Diablo Santiago** beat **Vik Dalishus** ... **Moondogs Mutt** & **Mange** beat **The Frat Pack** to win the tag team belts ... **Jeff Starr** won a 30-man Royal Rumble-style battle royal to win the heavyweight title.
(01-25-02)

—Mark Bekins

NORTH CAROLINA

GRAHAM—CWF/FWA-Carolinas "Ultimatum" card at the Graham Recreational Center: **Bert Tripp** & **Granite** defeated **Corey Edsel** & **Kenny James** ... **Sexton Tyler** pinned **J.T. Sparxx** ... **GeeStar** pinned women's champion **Amber Holly** in a non-title match ... **Otto Schwanz** pinned **Malaki** ... Tag team champions **The SouthSide Playas** defeated **Slick Ric** & **Rob McBride** ... **Cham Pain** pinned heavyweight champion **Eddie Brown** in a non-title match ... Cruiserweight champion **Mikael Yamaha** pinned **Caprice Coleman.**
(01-26-02)

—Grant Sawyer

WILSON—Global Championship Wrestling at the Boys' & Girls' Club: **Shawn Reigns** beat **Ethan Storm** ... **Spanky the Little Rascal** pinned **American Dragon** ... **Kevin Bishop** won a three-way dance against **Phil DeCarlo** and **T.C. Carter** ... **Enigma** wrestled **Firestorm** to a double-disqualification in a table match ... **Khan the Warlord** beat **Iron Chief** by disqualification ... **The Lone Star Connection** beat **Rocky King** & **Curtis Hughes**.
(01-12-02)

—Kyle Barker

CLAYTON—CWF/FWA-Carolinas at the High School: **Ali Steel** pinned **Malaki** ... **C.W. Anderson** pinned **Dewey Cheatum** ... **Madd Maxx** & **Jeff Justice** defeated **Otto Schwanz** & heavyweight champion **Eddie Brown** ... **Sexton Tyler**, cruiserweight champion **Mikael Yamaha**, & women's champion **Amber Holly** defeated **Gemini Kid**, **GeeStar**, & heavyweight champion **Eddie Brown**.
(01-05-02)

—Grant Sawyer

SHARPSBURG—Continental Championship Wrestling at the N.E.W. Academy: **Ravishing Ritchie** beat **Kurt Solo** ... **Duke Richards** beat **Karate Dave** ... **Leo Alure** beat **Willy G** ... **Cold Cash** beat **Ricky Starr** ... TV champ **Mr. Saturday Morning** beat **Enigma** ... **The Southside Playas** beat tag team champs **KnightShift** to win the title ... **Bounty Hunter** beat **Corey Edsel** ... Heavyweight champion **Nemisis** beat **Bam Bam**.
(01-05-02)

—Marcus Watkins

OHIO

WOOSTER—Mid-Ohio Championship Wrestling at the Cornerstone Elementary School Gym: **The Milwaukee Mauler** pinned **Brian O** ... **Josh Prohibition** defeated **MD20** ... **Ken Hendricks** beat **The Rouge** ... **Shasta McNasty** & **Pumper** wrestled to a double-disqualification ... Mid-Ohio heavyweight champion **Jeff Cannon** beat **Mr. Insanity** ... **Derranged** beat **Crazy** in a last-man-standing match ... **Mr. Insanity** won a battle royal.
(01-04-02)

—Zachary Kerr

OKLAHOMA

TULSA—Oklahoma Championship Wrestling at the Rodeo Arena: **Justin Lee** beat **Mark Trust** by forfeit ... **Amanda St. George** beat women's champ **Vanessa** by countout ... **The Outcast** won a battle royal ... **Rocco &Vinnie Valentino** beat tag team champs **The Texas Outlaws** to win the belts ... Hardcore champ **Splash Jackson** beat **Big Daddy Moore** ... **Brandon Groom** beat heavyweight champ **Splash Jackson** to win the title.
(01-13-02)

—Shelly Herman

PENNSYLVANIA

HERSHEY—WWF at Hersheypark Arena: Cruiserweight champion **Tajiri** beat **Billy Kidman** ... **Brock Lesnar** pinned **Raven** ... Women's champion **Trish Stratus** beat **Jazz** (**Jacquelyn** was the guest referee) ... Intercontinental champion **William Regal** pinned **Edge** in a no-disqualification match ... **Steve Austin** pinned **Booker T** ... Dallas **Page** beat **Lance Storm** ... **Billy Gunn** & **Chuck Palumbo** defeated **Albert** & **Scotty Too Hotty** ... **Kurt Angle** beat **Rikishi** ... World champion **Chris Jericho** defeated **Triple-H** by disqualification.
(01-27-02)

—William Davidson

JOHNSTOWN—WWF at the War Memorial: **Spike Dudley** defeated **Ron Waterman** ... **Justin Credible** beat **Randy Orton** ... **Perry Saturn** beat **Rico Constantino** ... **The Hurricane** defeated **Crash Holly** ... **Kane** pinned **The Big Show** ... Hardcore champion **The Undertaker** defeated **Rob Van Dam** ... **The Dudley Boyz** defeated **Bradshaw** & **Faarooq** in a table match ... **Lita** defeated **Mighty Molly** ... **The Hardy Boyz** defeated **Christian** & **Test**.
(01-26-02)

—Joe Kalman

PITTSBURGH—WWF at Mellon Arena: Cruiserweight champion **Tajiri** pinned **Billy Kidman** ... **Brock Lesnar** defeated **Raven** ... Women's champion **Trish Stratus** pinned **Jazz** (**Jacquelyn** was the guest referee) ... Intercontinental champion **William Regal** beat **Edge** in a no-disqualification match ... World champion **Chris Jericho** defeated **Triple-H** by disqualification ... **Dallas Page** pinned **Lance Storm** ... **Billy Gunn** & **Chuck Palumbo** defeated **Albert** & **Scotty Too Hotty** ... **Kurt Angle** pinned **Rikishi** ... **Steve Austin** defeated **Booker T**.
(01-26-02)

—Janet Taylor

McKEESPORT—NWA East at the NWA Sportatorium: **Maxim** defeated **Michael MacGowan** ... **Garrett Dominance** defeated **Davey Testament** ... **Kid Cupid** defeated **Mike MacGowan** ... Three Rivers champ **Daron Smythe** defeated **Dash Bennett** ... **Jazmynn Viktoria** pinned **Katerina Heiss** ... **Nikita Allanov** defeated **Bison** by forfeit ... **Sean Stylez** defeated **Nikita Allanov** by disqualification ... Tag team champs **Scott Venom** & **Axl Lap** defeated **Jimmy Anjel** & **Dale Price** ... **Mad Mike** defeated **Powerhouse Hughes** ... **Katerina Heiss** pinned **Jazmynn Viktoria** ... Triple crown champion **Dirk Ciglar** pinned triple jeopardy champion **Paul Atlas** ... **Homicyde** & **Crusher Hansen** defeated **Quinn Magnum** & **Brandon K.**
(01-12-02)

—Jenn Morgan

PHILADELPHIA—Combat Zone Wrestling at Viking Hall: **Brian XL** & **Divine Storm** defeated **The Softcore Connection** ... **G.Q.** defeated **Chris Cash** ... **Nick Mondo** won a three-way match against **Johnny Kashmere** and **Ian Knoxx** ... **Adam Flash** & **Danny Rose** defeated **Greg Matthews** & **Billy Beater** ... **Zandig** defeated **Glen Osbourne** in a lumberjack strap match ... **Eddie Valentine** & **Jon Dahmer** won a three-way match against **Kenny** & **Keno Murdoch** and **Nick Gage** & **Nate Hatred** ... **Trent Acid** defeated **Winger** ... Heavyweight champion **Justice Pain** defeated **The Messiah**.
(01-12-02)

—Hank Rollins

TENNESSEE

EAST RIDGE—UEW at the UEW Building: **Johnny Blaze** defeated **Shawn Mitchell** ... **Skunk** defeated **Bobby Starr** ... **David Kyle** & **The Disciples**

William Regal might be the most intense superstar on the WWF roster at this point. You can see the anger and intensity on his face whenever he wrestles, especially when it's against Edge. However, it was Edge who was fuming at the end of this match. He was disqualified when he was caught with Regal's brass knucks.

Mr. Perfect is known more for his technical skills than his hands of stone, but the man can throw a pretty powerful punch when he needs to. He and Val Venis had a nice match going before Steve Austin arrived on the scene and kayoed both of them.

defeated **Rawhead Rex**, **Skull**, & **Twiggy** ... **Ben Thrasher**, **Fajing**, & **Drew Delight** defeated **Jeff Bowman Jr.**, **Jeff Bowman Sr.**, & **Skunk** ... **Crazy Eddie** & **Blackie Lawless** beat **Danny Marlowe** & **Gene Spurlock** ... **Skinny Kenny Arden** & **Johnny Blaze** defeated **Chuckie Chuck** & **Drew Game**.
(02-02-02)

—Justin Ramey

EAST RIDGE—UEW at the UEW Arena: **Skunk** beat **Shane Mitchell** ... **Fa Jing** & **Rocky Star** defeated **Tommy Steele** & **Jason Phoenix** ... **David Kyle** defeated **Jeff Bowman Jr.** ... **Skull**, **Rawhead Rex**, & **Twiggy** battled **The Devil Disciples** & **Jamie Kyle** to a double-countout ... **Blackie Lawless** pinned **Danny Marlo** in a lumberjack match ... **Dru D Lite** & **Johnny Blaze** beat **Drew Game** & **Jeff Bowman Sr.**
(01-26-02)

—David Pierce

LA FOLLETTE—UWA at the UWA Arena: **The Intern** defeated **Chris Wright** ... **Bounty Hunter III** beat **Stone Wall Jackson** ... **Jason Mulligan** defeated **Big Wood** ... **Skinny Kenny Arden** wrestled to a double-disqualification with **Crazy Connection IV** ... **Smokey Steele** & **Lawman** defeated **Bounty Hunter I** & **Jack Hammer** ... **The Iron Horsemen** defeated **Ben Thrasher** & **Chuckie Chuck**.
(02-01-02)

—Justin Ramey

LA FOLLETTE—UAW at the UAW Arena: **Chick White** beat **Eddie Christian** ... **Chuckie Chuck** & **Ben Thrasher** beat **The Crazy Connection** ... **"Skinny" Kenny Arden** & **Big Wood** defeated **Nelsonizer** & **Black Rose** ... **Stonewall Jackson** & **Smokey Steele** defeated **The Intern** & **Bounty Hunter III** ... **Chick White** & **The Equalizer** defeated **Eddie Christian** & **War Eagle**.
(01-08-02)

—Justin Ramey

NASHVILLE—USA Championship Wrestling at the Fairgrounds: **Kevin White** pinned **Slim J** ... **Chase Stevens** defeated **Rick Michaels** ... **Bart Sawyer** beat **Ricky Murdoch** ... **Chris Harris** beat **Ashley Hudson** to win the North American title ... **Adam Jacobs** defeated **Lance Dreamer** ... **Spellbinder** beat **Hot Rod Biggs** ... **Onyx** & **Kory Williams** defeated **Big Bully Douglas** & **Mike Rapada** ... **Terry Taylor** & **Larry Zbyszko** beat **Brian Christopher** & **Doug Gilbert**.
(01-12-02)

—David Pierce

TEXAS

BALCH SPRINGS—Lone Star Championship Wrestling at the Rec Center: **The Overboyz** pinned **The Douglas Brothers** ... Women's champ **Dominique LaReaux** pinned **Destiny** ... **Cody Knight** & **Big Pappa Jones** pinned **Chuck Murphy** & **Scott Stuart** ... **Ray Evans** pinned **Tim Swiney** ... Light heavyweight champion **Iron Eagle** pinned **Chris Chronic** ... **Todd Diamond** & **Ruffy** pinned **Chance Romance** & **C-Diddy** ... Heavyweight champ **Jared Steele** won a three-way match against **Action Jackson** and **Mike Foxx** ... **Action Jackson** won a battle royal.
(01-13-02)

—Jameson Busick

HOUSTON—WWF at the Compaq Center: Cruiserweight champion **Tajiri** beat **Billy Kidman** ... **The Big Show** beat **Tommy Dreamer** & **Steven Richards** in a handicap match ... Women's champion **Trish Stratus** pinned **Jazz** (**Jacquelyn** was the guest referee) ... **Kane** beat **Big Bossman** ... **Triple-H** beat World champion **Chris Jericho** by disqualification ... **Dallas Page** pinned **Lance Storm** ... **Billy Gunn** & **Chuck Palumbo** beat **Albert** & **Scotty Too Hotty** ... **Kurt Angle** pinned **Rikishi** ... **Steve Austin** pinned **Booker T** in a no-disqualification match.
(01-13-02)

—Steve Drew

WACO—WWF at the Heart o' Texas Coliseum: European champion **Christian** defeated **The Hurricane** ... **Randy Orton** defeated **Sho Funaki** ... **Rico Constantino** & **Ron Waterman** beat **Justin Credible** & **Shawn Stasiak** ... **Brock Lesnar** pinned **Hugh Morrus** ... **Lita** pinned **Mighty Molly** ... **Raven** beat **Perry Saturn** ... Intercontinental champion **Edge** beat **William Regal** ... **The Hardy Boyz** beat **The Dudley Boyz** and **Bradshaw** & **Faarooq** in a three-way elimination match ... **Rob Van Dam** pinned **Test**.
(01-13-02)

—Jimmy Sanderson

ARLINGTON—Professional Championship Wrestling at the PCW Arena: **Devil Dupree** pinned **Scott Stuart** ... **Tank Tyson** pinned **Bull** ... **C-Diddy** & **Jared Steele** pinned **Shea Wright** & **A.B. Richter** ... **Shadrick** pinned **Largus Black** ... **The KEG Brothers** pinned **Kevin Douglas** & **Iron Eagle** ... **C-Diddy** & **Jared Steele** beat **The KEG Brothers** to become the tag team champions.
(01-12-02)

—Jameson Busick

ARLINGTON—Professional Championship Wrestling at the PCW Arena: **Paul London** defeated **Joey Corman** and **Samir** in a three-way match ... **A-Train** defeated **Devil Dupree** ... **King Parsons** defeated **Shea Wright** ... **Martin Styles** defeated **Chris Chronic** in a steel cage match ... **C-Diddy** & **Jared Steele** defeated **Kevin Douglas** & **Iron Eagle** ... Heavyweight champ **Mike Foxx** defeated **Jeromy Sage** by reverse decision in a first-blood match.
(01-05-02)

—Brent Plumlee

BEAUMONT—WWF at the Montagne Center: European champion **Christian** defeated **The Hurricane** ... **Sho Funaki** beat **Randy Orton** ... **Lita** pinned **Mighty Molly** ... **Rico Constantino** & **Ron Waterman** defeated **Justin Credible** & **Shawn Stasiak** ... **Hugh Morrus** defeated **Brock Lesnar** ... **Perry Saturn** defeated **Raven** ... Intercontinental champion **Edge** pinned **William Regal** ... **Bradshaw** & **Faarooq** defeated **The Hardy Boyz** and **The Dudley Boyz** in a three-way elimination match ... **Rob Van Dam** pinned **Test**.
(01-12-02)

—Ray Minor

LUBBOCK—WWF at the United Spirit Arena: Cruiserweight champion **Tajiri** beat **Billy Kidman** ... **The Big Show** defeated **Tommy Dreamer** & **Steven Richards** in a handicap match ... Women's champion **Trish Stratus** pinned **Jazz** (**Jacquelyn**

Billy Gunn couldn't have been too optimistic about he and Chuck Palumbo's chances of beating The Big Show and Kane when this picture was taken. However, they added to their winning streak just seconds later after turning the match around in a hurry.

was the guest referee) ... **Kane** defeated **Big Bossman** ... **Steve Austin** pinned **Booker T** in a no-disqualification match ... **Dallas Page** pinned **Lance Storm** ... **Billy Gunn** & **Chuck Palumbo** defeated **Albert** & **Scotty Too Hotty** ... **Kurt Angle** defeated **Rikishi** ... **Triple-H** beat World champion **Chris Jericho** by disqualification.
(01-12-02)

—Eric Horton

TYLER—Texas New Age Wrestling Alliance at the NAWA Arena: **Drunk Adam** beat **Pendragon** by disqualification ... **Gavin Arlis Young** beat **Jason Norcross** ... **Joey Corman** beat **Sassy C. Bottom** to become the heavyweight champion ... **Kahn**, **Mike Paige**, **Epi**, & **Samir** beat **David Fuller**, **B. Ryder**, **Insane Assassin**, & **Lord Fatality** in a "War Games"-style match.
(01-08-02)

—Rob Moore

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS—NWA Southwest at the Texas Indoor Arena: **Cowtown Kidd** beat **Samir** by disqualification ... **J.P. Black** pinned **Chris Jekyll** ... **Brett Bonz** beat TV champ **Paul London** by countout to win the title ... **Mike Thunder** beat **John Allen** in a four-corners match ... Texas champ **Mike Anthony** pinned **Hellraiser Hark** ... NWA National champion **Hotstuff Hernandez** pinned **Scoot Andrews**.
(01-04-02)

—Rob Moore

VIRGINIA

CHARLOTTESVILLE—WWF at the University of Virginia's University Hall: **Spike Dudley** pinned **Ron Waterman** ... **Justin Credible** defeated **Randy Orton** ... **Perry Saturn** beat **Rico Constantino** ... **The Hurricane** defeated **Crash Holly** ... **Kane** pinned **The Big Show** ... Hardcore champion **The Undertaker** beat **Rob Van Dam** ... **The Dudley Boyz** defeated **Bradshaw** & **Faarooq** in a table match ... **Lita** pinned **Mighty Molly** ... **The Hardy Boyz** defeated **Christian** & **Test**.
(01-27-02)

—Dutch Krewda

WASHINGTON

SEATTLE—WWF at Key Arena: European champion **Dallas Page** pinned **Christian** ... **Jacquelyn** defeated **Mighty Molly** ... **Val Venis** defeated **Ron Waterman** ... **The Hurricane** defeated **Sho Funaki** ... **Albert** & **Scotty Too Hotty** defeated **The Dudley Boyz** and **The Hardy Boyz** in a three-way elimination match ... Cruiserweight champion **Tajiri** beat **Billy Kidman** ... **Rob Van Dam** pinned **Lance Storm** ... **Kane** pinned **Test** ... World champion **Chris Jericho** defeated **Triple-H** by disqualification.
(02-02-02)

—Terry Thomas

INTERNATIONAL

CANADA

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA—WWF at the PNE Coliseum: Cruiserweight champion **Tajiri** pinned **Billy Kidman** ... **The Hurricane** pinned **Sho Funaki** ... **Val Venis** beat **Ron Waterman** ... **Mighty Molly** pinned **Jacquelyn** ... **The Hardy Boyz** defeated **The Dudley Boyz** and **Albert** & **Scotty Too Hotty** in a three-way elimination match ... **Lance Storm** pinned **Rob Van Dam** ... European champion **Dallas Page** pinned **Christian** ... **Test** defeated **Kane** ... World champion **Chris Jericho** beat **Triple-H** by disqualification.
(02-02-02)

—Rodney Falk

There wasn't much Kurt Angle could do when Rock had him in this position. He knew he was destined to be caught in the sharpshooter. Fortunately for Angle, he was able to escape the hold before being forced to tap out. His tag team partner, Chris Jericho, didn't have the same good fortune when he tangled with Rock a few moments later. He was pinned after being hit with a Rock bottom.

ELMWOOD, MANITOBA—Top Rope Championship Wrestling at the Chalmers Community Club: **Scott Savage** beat **Justin Gigolo** ... **Lincoln Steen** defeated **Darian Karisma** ... **Gene Swan** & **Reggie Gallagher** beat **Rico Morrow** & **P. Worthington Love** ... Main Stream Wrestling Atlantic champion **Johnny Malibu** beat TRCW heavyweight champion **Vance Nevada** by countout ... Tag team champs **Mike Angels** & **The Axe** beat **Zack Mercury** & **Xzibit**.
(01-16-02)

—Vern May

MONTREAL, QUEBEC—Northern Championship Wrestling at the NDR Center: TV champ **Flat Face Jeremy** beat **Steven the Sweet Boy** ... **Black Eagle** beat **Soopa** ... **Marc the Grizzly** & **Jayzon Reaper** beat **The Vipers** ... **Franky the Mobster** beat **Iceman** ... Inter-city champ **Blaze** beat **Farmer Joe** ... **Nova Cain** & **Nightstalker** beat **Rush** & **Raid** ... Tag team champions **Access Denied** beat **Made of Money** ... Quebec champion **Iceman** beat **Black Eagle**.
(01-12-02)

—Yan O'Cain

TORONTO, ONTARIO—Apocalypse Wrestling Federation at Cactus Pete's: **Codfather Billy Flynn** beat **Kevin Grace** ... **Fabian Stokes** pinned **Mysterious Mayhem** ... **Vladimir Urkov** beat **The Squeegee Kid** ... **La Felina** defeated **Phoenix** ... **P. Smalls** defeated **Masamune** ... **Charlie Brown** pinned **Jaguar Vijay Singh** ... **James Champagne** pinned heavyweight champion **Joey Knight** to win the title.
(01-06-02)

—Greg Sutherland

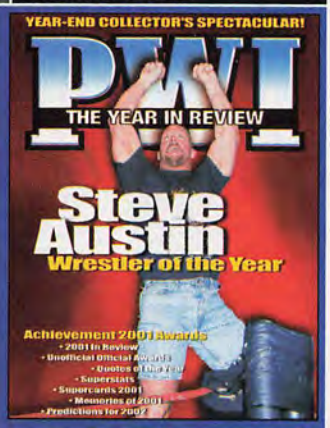
LANGLEY, BRITISH COLUMBIA—ECCW/NWA Pacific Northwest at the House of Pain Training Centre: **Wrathchild** beat **Michael Raines** ... **Scotty Mac** defeated **Domestic Disturbance** ... **Buffy** & **Havoc** beat **Bam Bam Bambi** & **Killswitch** in a mixed tag team match ... **Skag Rollins** defeated **Father Juan Valdez** ... NWA Pacific Northwest champion **Chance Beckett** pinned **Backyard Billy** in a non-title match ... **Aaron Idol** pinned House of Pain champion **Sweet Daddy Devastation** to win the title.
(01-05-02)

—Todd Baumgartner

between falls

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED welcomes readers' comments on any of our stories or columns. Send letters to: BETWEEN FALLS Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034 Or you can e-mail your comments to prowrestlingillustrated@yahoo.com Letters preceded by a ☎ indicate letters left by fans on the *PWI* Hotline (1-900-884-4PWI; see ad elsewhere in this issue).

NO STUNNER FOR "STONE-COLD"



Steve Austin was the big winner in the 2002 *PWI* Achievement Awards, taking home honors for Wrestler and Most Hated Wrestler of the Year. As a result, he was the man on the cover of our April 2002 issue. Rob Van Dam also garnered two awards, for Most Popular and Comeback. The "Year In Review" is one of the most anticipated issues of the year, and readers are quick to offer feedback.

"It was funny with the timing of everything that Austin was the WWF's most popular guy when the year ended, yet he got the award for being hated," e-mailed Patti Grant of Jeffersonville, Pennsylvania. "I bet a lot of people wish they could have taken their votes back."

"It was great that RVD won two awards, especially since he had to beat out Rock for Most Popular," wrote Mario Colvin of Saunderstown, Rhode Island. "Maybe the WWF will realize that fans want to see him in main events."

"Really good year-end issue," wrote Thomas J. Martin of San Diego. "I'm glad the only award won by a McMahon was Feud of the Year, Vince vs. Shane. But that's three out of four years where Vince was involved in Feud of the Year. I hope he doesn't make it four of five."

CATCHPHRASE CRAZINESS!

Could someone please tell me what's going on with Austin's new catchphrase? What?!

Yeah that's the one! During the past few months, this short but lethal phrase has completely taken over the wrestling business and needs to be put to rest. Pro wrestlers in the WWF and even on the independent circuit can't cut a promo without being hit with "What?!" from all different directions.

I mean, come on! Heels can't even draw heat from a crowd because people are so busy chanting "What?!" that they don't pay any attention to a single word that the superstars are trying to say. And even more shocking was how the crowd at Madison Square Garden on January 7 and 8 reacted to the singing of our national anthem. No, they didn't chant "U-S-A! U-S-A!" Instead, the crowd interrupted Lilian Garcia by chanting "What?! What?! What?!" What a total lack of respect for Lilian *and* this country!

It's even spreading outside of wrestling. During a recent school assembly at the high school I attend, the principal was interrupted by the student body when everyone broke out into a chorus of "What?!" Now that was hilarious! But it shows the power that the WWF has over its fans. I hope they take my advice and put the "What?!" phrase to rest.

What?! I said to rest for good!

YUSUF BISHOP
Atlantic City, NJ

CRAVIN' MORE MAVEN

This year's Royal Rumble was fantastic, but I think the highlight of the whole show for me was seeing Maven eliminate The Undertaker from the battle royal. With all this talk about wrestling needing new faces, why not give Maven a chance in the WWF right now? Look at how well he did against Chris Jericho on *Raw*. I know he lacks experience, but maybe he could appear just on TV for a while. Let him train and learn the rest of the week. I know I enjoy watching him.

CYNTHIA BYRAM
Sanderson, WV

Maven (shown against Booker T) hasn't had much success in limited WWF action so far, yet he gets a fairly good crowd response. Reader Cynthia Byram advises the WWF to try to capitalize on his popularity now.

BLAME RUSSO!

I enjoyed your "State Of The Game" issue (February 2002). Reading about the game since WCW and ECW folded gave me a great perspective on it. During the mess of WCW's final days, I always looked to PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED to make sense of it all. The Goldberg story was the best part. Goldberg became my favorite wrestler in WCW's last days. With WCW having its last show it my hometown, I had my own observation on the company's downfall.

I give Eric Bischoff credit for WCW's rise in 1996-1998, via the NWO invasion.

Eventually, it took a toll on him and he was ousted as president. Shortly afterward, with the hiring of Vince Russo, WCW began to fall apart. I blame Vince Russo for the fall of WCW. Russo's supposed magic worked for the WWF as it made a comeback. But Vince McMahon, the businessman, also showed respect for the fans. When the fans called for a certain WWF wrestler to win a WWF championship, McMahon gave the fans what they called for. Sure, the fans accept non-favorites winning titles in order to balance things out. However, when the fans called for a favorite to regain the title, McMahon usually came through.

In 1999, WCW fans called for Goldberg to regain the WCW title. Russo fooled the fans into believing it would happen, but pulled the wool over their eyes. He did this too many times, and WCW fans got fed up. They switched over to the WWF because Vince McMahon never insulted their intelligence.

We fans pay for tickets, buy pay-per-views, and buy magazines. When you insult us one too many times, we take our business elsewhere. Because of lost fans, WCW went deep into debt.

I agree with Goldberg's opinion of Russo being a stain on the game and business. Any promotion that considers hiring Russo is asking for a going out of business program. In other words, when Russo comes a calling, tell him to take a hike.

HUNT AGOSTA
Panama City, FL

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT?

I've been following the WWF for more than 10 years, but lately things have turned ugly. Giving middle fingers, nasty language ... and now Mr. McMahon pulls down his pants on TV. If you ask me, the McMahons need to clean up their act. I enjoy the wrestling, but kids today need role models. We used to have Hogan, Flair, and Savage. They wrestled and tried to teach kids the right things. It was all nice, clean fun.

So I say it's about time to get rid of the wrestlers who don't know how to behave and bring back those who do. Things are bad enough as it is today. The WWF just isn't what it used to be, and that's sad. If the WWF isn't cleaned up, it will lose a fan.

VETINA CASEY
Hustonville, KY

The WWF has had its share of unusual pairings over the years, and the partnership of Tajiri and Torrie Wilson belongs among them. Reader Ted Crane believes it's time for these two to split up, however.

THE ODD COUPLE

At first the pairing of Tajiri and Torrie Wilson in the WWF was funny, but I don't understand why they are still together. Are we supposed to believe they are really in love? Tajiri isn't getting pushed at all (is he still the cruiserweight champion?), and I think Torrie would have better chemistry with someone else, maybe Lance Storm or Test. And I really miss the banter that Tajiri had with William Regal when he was Regal's manservant. Tajiri made Regal a lot more interesting. He's still good—it's nice to see someone using foreign objects rather than chairs and sledgehammers—but Tajiri brought out his funny side. Both of them could benefit if Torrie walked out on Tajiri and they rediscovered their friendship.

TED CRANE
Backus, MN

ROCK 'N' COACH CONNECTION

I used to think that watching Kevin Kelly interview The Rock (then getting humiliated) was close to the funniest thing I ever saw. But the stuff with Rock and Jonathan Coachman I've seen lately has been even *better*. I laughed harder than I've laughed in a long time on the night Rock made Coach admit he liked Barry Manilow music and forced him to sing "Copacabana." But when he yelled at Coach for not paying attention to him and made him dance the Charleston, I laughed so hard that I had to leave the room to get myself together. The Coach is the most underrated guy in the WWF!

HARRY WOOTON
Rockport, CO □

PWI Hotline Extra!

Your answers to our question of the week!

Question of the Week: Do you expect the NWO to turn against Vince McMahon? (January 29 to February 4, 2002)

Hotline callers respond: "That's exactly the thought I had as soon as Vince announced he was bringing in those guys," said Elliott Hable of Benton Harbor, Michigan. "The NWO working for Vince McMahon makes no sense to me. They have to be have their own agenda."

"I wouldn't be surprised to see it happen a few months from now maybe," responded Jack Dannon of Taylor, Florida. "But I expect to see Hogan, Hall, and Nash to stick with Vince for a while. Then you'll have the top WWF guys help out Flair."

"WCW had a great thing going with the NWO, but they ruined it by putting two many guys in the group and breaking it up and all," said Patrick Singleton of Lund, Wisconsin. "Vince McMahon will keep this group small, strong, and united."

BACK ISSUES OF THE Wrestler

Don't miss a single issue of the magazine that has thrilled wrestling fans for two generations, THE WRESTLER! Complete your collection of the most respected wrestling publication in the world! Supplies are limited, so don't delay—order today!

Dec. 1978: The Injury Andre The Giant Must Keep Secret. Also: Blackjack Mulligan, Brisco & Spoiler, Dino Bravo, Dick Murdoch, Tully Blanchard, Victor Rivera, Heenan & Bockwinkel, Rocky Johnson, Race-Funk.

March 1979: Backlund vs. Ladd: Did Bruno's "Interference" Cost Ladd The WWWF Title? Also: Angelo Mosca, Dick Murdoch, Peter Maivia, Bob Orton Jr., Bockwinkel-Rhodes, Brisco-Race, Crusher Blackwell, Lewin-T. Funk.

May 1979: Paul Jones-Rick Steamboat Feud: Who Is Really To Blame? Also: Valiants, Jack Brisco, Larry Hennig, Johnson-King, Lanza-Mulligan, Chief Jay Strongbow, Snuka-Patera.

July 1979: Ernie Ladd's Claim: "Mr. Wrestling II Uses A Loaded Mask!" Also: Backlund-Race, Andre-Baker, Bruno Sammartino, Nick Bockwinkel, Dick Slater, Sonny King, Valiants, Stan Hansen.

Sept. 1979: A New—And Deadly—Feud For Rick Steamboat. Also: Roddy Piper, Superstar Graham, Backlund-Brower, Cyclone Negro, Greg Gagne, The Bruiser-Brody, Dino Bravo, Mil Mascaras, Hussein Arab.

April 1980: Did Ken Patera Destroy Dusty Rhodes' Bionic Elbow? Also: Terry Funk, Kevin Von Erich, DiBiase-Backlund, Bockwinkel & Heenan, Baba-Race, Mr. Wrestling II, Youngblood & Steamboat.

Aug. 1980: The Reign Of Bloodshed Begins: Stevens & Valentine Win The NWA Tag Team Title! Also: Kerry Von Erich, Backlund & Skaaland, Nick Bockwinkel, Zbyszko-Bruno, Keirn-Muraco, Samoans, Wrestling II-Idol.

June 1981: Bruno Sammartino: "I Want To Break Stan Hansen's Neck!" Also: Ted DiBiase, Garea & Martel, Mike Graham, Mongolian Stomper, Piper-Superstar, Verne Gagne, Tommy Rich.

Sept. 1980: Why Ernie Ladd Says ... "I'm Tired Of Being Your King." Also: Rick Steamboat, Mad Dog Vachon, Bugsy McGraw, Patera-Patterson, Manny Fernandez, Bob Backlund, Greg Gagne, Mike Sharpe.

Oct. 1980: Kevin Von Erich Wins The Missouri Title From Kevin Von Erich! Also: Mr. Wrestling II, Pedro Morales, Superstar Graham, Dusty Rhodes, Idol-Race, Rick McGraw.

Feb. 1981: Larry Zbyszko's Claim: "Tony Garea Begged Me Not To Hurt Him!" Also: The Grappler, Race-Patera, Hussein Arab, Humperdink-Rhodes, Gilberts, Mr. Wrestling II, Bravo-Bockwinkel.

Oct. 1981: Is The Funk Family At War? Why Terry Funk And Dory Funk Jr. Were Forced To Wrestle. Also: Backlund-Patterson-Mosca, Harley Race, Rhodes-Khan, Kevin Sullivan, Flair-Patera, Verne Gagne.

Jan. 1982: Rich vs. Masked Superstar: Can Tommy Rich Survive As Georgia's Last Hero? Also: Kiwis, Bockwinkel-Atlas, Mascaras-Steamboat, Sullivan-Taylor, Bruno Sammartino.

March 1982: U.S. Champion Slaughter vs. Former NWA Champion Race: How Harley Race's Attempt To Win An "Easy" Title Ended In Disaster. Also: Jimmy Snuka, Flair-Idol, Steve Keirn, Steamboat-Patterson, Fuji-Albano-Saito, Bruno Sammartino Jr., Bruiser-Sullivan.

Aug. 1982: Nick Bockwinkel: "Tommy Rich Is Too Stupid To Be Champion!" Also: Putski-Adonis, Blackjack Mulligan Jr., Roddy Piper, Rick Steamboat, Lawler-Kaufman, Mike Graham.

April 1982: How Jack Brisco Controls Ric Flair's Championship Destiny. Also: Tito Santana, Valentine-Atlas, Bob Roop, Armstrongs, John Studd, Eric Embry.

June 1982: Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat: How The NWA Belt Strangled Wrestling's Greatest Friendship. Also: Piper-Armstrong, Hussein Arab, Bruno Sammartino, Adonis & Ventura, Butch Reed.

July 1982: Harley Race—His Destiny Is In The Hands Of Tommy Rich. Also: Rick Steamboat, Chief Jay Strongbow, Buzz Sawyer, Ric Flair, Roddy Piper.

Sept. 1982: Dusty Rhodes Returns To Florida: The Tragic Comeback That Should Not Have Happened. Also: Manny Fernandez, Armstrong-Piper, Blassie-Mulligan, Japan, Bockwinkel-Hogan.

Nov. 1982: Clash Of The Titans—Backlund vs. Flair: Who's Better? Also: Roddy Piper, Gagne & Brunzell, Putski & Snuka, Brian Blair.

Dec. 1982: Morales vs. Snuka: Does Pedro Deserve To Be Intercontinental Champion? Also: Bob Orton Jr., Kamala, Rich & Rhodes, Barry Windham, Ted DiBiase, JYD-Bockwinkel, Oliver Humperdink.

Jan. 1983: Ivan Putski Humiliates Cowboy Bob Orton: Can The Grand Wizard Pick Up The Pieces? Also: Barry Windham, Muraco-Sawyer-Rich, Nick Bockwinkel, Flair-Youngblood-Steamboat, Fabulous Kangaroos.

Feb. 1983: Exclusive Coverage: Nick Bockwinkel Regains The AWA Title From Otto Wanz. Also: Backlund-Graham, Rich-Sawyer, Barry Windham, Martel & Garea, McDaniel & Piper, Kamala.

May 1983: What Will Happen When The Samoans Become Too Smart For Capt. Lou Albano? Also: Tommy Rich, Terry Allen, Eddie Gilbert, Kerry-Race, Ladd & Rhodes, Flair-Orndorff.

June 1983: Flair-Windham Match Spurs Controversy: Should The NWA Champion Be Allowed To Choose His Challengers? Also: Ivan Koloff, Bruiser Brody, Kerry Von Erich, Andre-Kamala, Brazil-Valentine, Gagnes-Martel.

July 1983: Ric Flair: "I Wrestle The Men Backlund Is Afraid Of." Also: Putski-Adonis, Kevin Sullivan, Bob Roop, Martel-Heenan.

Sept. 1983: Nick Bockwinkel Forces Hulk Hogan Into Exile: And Only The Fans Can Bring Him Back. Also: Briscos, Blackwell-Kerry-Race, Paul Ellering, Mulligan & Windham.

Nov. 1983: Target—Harley Race! Can Dusty Rhodes Fulfill His American Dream A Third Time? Also: Rick Rude, Rotundo-Kabuki, Gagne & Brunzell, Tito Santana, Von Erichs-Freebirds.

Dec. 1983: The Night The AWA World Title Was Stolen From Mil Mascaras. Also: Roddy Piper, Larry Zbyszko, Dino Bravo, Fabulous Ones, Garvin & Sunshine.

March 1984: Is Tito Santana Trying To Blackmail The WWF? Also: Wayne & Sawyer, Hogan-Race, David Von Erich, Jesse Ventura.

July 1984: Tommy Rich Is Back! And He Owes It All To The Fans. Also: Valiant-Rhodes, Ric Flair, Mike Von Erich, Billy Jack.

Aug. 1984: Garvin vs. Roberts: "Hands Of Stone" Crushes "The Snake." Also: Freebirds-Devastation Inc., Sawyer-Sullivan, Lawler & Dillon, McDaniel-Race.

Sept. 1984: Kerry Von Erich Wins The NWA World Title: For David ... For Texas ... For Wrestling! Also: Road Warriors-Bundy & Superstar, Johnson & Atlas-Piper & Orndorff, Billy Jack-Sawyer.

Nov. 1984: The $50,000 Full-Nelson Challenge Match: Billy Jack Gets Revenge Against Superstar Graham. Also: Piper-Hogan, Heenan & Saito, Brody & Hansen, Von Erichs.

Dec. 1984: The Tully Blanchard-Rick Steamboat Feud: Will Dusty Rhodes End It ... Or Make It Worse? Also: Tito Santana, Martel-Atlas, D. Funk, Mike Von Erich, Williams-Taylor.

Jan. 1985: Kerry Von Erich: "I've Got Ric Flair's NWA Title Within My Grasp." Also: Albano & Lauper, Koloffs & Kernodle, Road Warriors, Lawler & Rude, Scott McGhee.

Feb. 1985: Greg Valentine Wins Tito Santana's Intercontinental Title ... But Does He Deserve To Be Champion? Also: Ronnie Garvin, Warriors-Sheepherders, Flair-Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

April 1985: Six-Man Riot! Road Warriors & Ellering vs. Rhodes, Rich, & Anderson. Also: Tonga Kid, tomorrow's stars, Adams-Kevin, Flair-Jack, Terminators.

June 1985: Are The WWF Rulebreakers Singling Out Barry Windham For Destruction? Also: Zbyszko-Backlund, Rhodes-Blanchard, Tommy Rich, Oliver-Haynes.

July 1985: It's A Dog's Life ... And Junkyard Dog Wouldn't Trade It With Anyone! Also: Backlund-Martel, Kernodle-Koloff, Butch Reed, Hernandez & Sunshine, Mike Graham.

Aug. 1985: Ten Days Of Blood And Glory: The Road Warriors Invade Japan! Also: Terry Taylor, Magnum T.A., Bugsy McGraw, Sheik & Volkoff-Windham & Rotundo, 20th anniversary.

Oct. 1985: David Shultz Gets An NWA Title Shot: Ric Flair—"I Wrestle The Men Hulk Hogan Is Afraid Of!" Also: Misty Blue, Rick Martel, Kendall Windham, George Steele, Killer Brooks, wrestling greats' all-time top 10.

June 1986: Kerry Reveals His Secret: "I've Told Magnum T.A. How To Beat Ric Flair!" Also: Steve Williams, Hogan-Orton, Flair-Bockwinkel, Lex Luger.

Nov. 1986: Morton & Gibson Take A Trip To Badstreet U.S.A.: The Rock 'n' Roll Express vs. The Freebirds. Also: Eddie Gilbert, Hogan-Orndorff, Mike Von Erich, Mulligan-Bass.

Dec. 1986: Ric Flair's NWA Title Reign: Last Chance To Silence The Critics! Also: Nikita Koloff, Gilbert & Sting, Hogan-Piper, Abdullah-Adams, Nick Bockwinke.

Jan. 1987: Bobby Heenan's Bitter Crusade To Destroy Hulk Hogan. Also: Borne & Sawyer, Garvins, Ted DiBiase, Misty Blue Simmes.

Feb. 1987: Tragedy Strikes Wrestling: Magnum T.A. Needs Your Prayers Now More Than Ever. Also: Roberts-Steamboat, Crusher Yurkol, Terry Gordy, Wendell Cooley.

March 1987: Ivan & Khrushchev's Kremlin Orders: Crush Nikita Koloff's Russian Revolution! Also: Barry Windham, One Man Gang, Brian Adias, Savage-Steamboat, Jimmy Snuka.

June 1987: The Hart Foundation vs. The Can-Ams: Special Analysis Of This WWF Superfeud! Also: Nick Bockwinkel, Paul Orndorff, Rhodes & Murdoch, Steve Williams.

July 1987: Missy Hyatt: Will She Kiss And Tell In The WWF? Also: Chris Adams, Hart Foundation, Luger & Horsemen, Nikita-Cornette, Stan Hansen.

Sept. 1987: Independence Day! Also: Hennig-Bockwinkel, Hart Foundation, Koloffs, Bubba Rogers, Missy Hyatt.

Oct. 1987: The Honky Tonk Man Wins The Intercontinental Title: Is Randy Savage The Fans' Last Hope. Also: Kerry Von Erich, Ken Patera, Sting-Gilbert, Horsemen-Freebirds, Zbyszko-Gagne.

Dec. 1987: Hulk Hogan: Will He Be Drowned By The New Wave Of Challengers? Also: Hennig-Lawler, Windham-Steiner, Flair-Williams, Brutus Beefcake, Ronnie Garvin.

Jan. 1988: The Experts Agree: The Road Warriors Will Turn Bad In 1988! Also: Koloff-Taylor, Curt Hennig, Duggan-DiBiase.

Feb. 1988: Ric Flair Admits: "I'm Nothing Without The NWA Belt!" Also: Kerry Von Erich, Jim Cornette, Hogan-Andre, Hennig-Lawler, Terry Taylor.

March 1988: After Four Years As Champion ... Only Hulk Hogan Can Beat Hulk Hogan. Also: Warriors-Demolition, Steve Williams, Luger & Dillon, Calgary, Terry Gordy.

April 1988 (Special Issue): Starrcade, Survivor Series, World Class: Wrestling's Greatest Day! Also: Midnight Rockers, Luger-Horsemen, Santana & Martel, McDaniel-Hennig, Bobby Eaton.

June 1988: How Sting's War With Ric Flair Could Make Him A Horseman! Also: Bobby Heenan, Martel-Zenk, Kerry-Gordy, Ted DiBiase, Nikita Koloff.

Aug. 1988: World Tag Title Power Shift! Also: Windham & Luger, Demolition, Taylor-Freebirds, Paul Ellering, Owen & Bret.

Oct. 1988: The Fantastics Declare: "We Will Not Share Our Fans With The Rock 'n' Roll Express!" Also: Rhodes-Windham, Curt Hennig, Roberts-Rude, Rougeaus, Jim Garvin.

Jan. 1989: The Horsemen Destroyed! The World Title Gained! But The Midnight Express Must Still Prove Themselves! Also: Top Guns, Hart & Rougeaus, Andre-Savage-Hulk, Terry Gordy, Kevin Von Erich.

Feb. 1989: The Road Warriors: "Sting, Dusty, & The Fans Can Go To Hell!" Also: Madusa Miceli, Blue Blazer, Warrior-Hogan, Bigelow-Gordy, Eddie Gilbert.

March 1989: Scared Stiff! "Don't Say Snake!" Also: Jeff Jarrett, Cactus Jack, Ric Flair, Bam Bam Bigelow, Hercules, Iron Sheik.

April 1989: Hulkamania Runs Wild Again! Can Randy Savage Stop The Onslaught? Also: British Bulldogs, Road Warriors-Sting & Luger, Lawler-Kerry, Andre, Mike Rotundo.

May 1989: Rick Steamboat—Champion; Rick Steamboat—Challenger: Which Is Better? Also: Sid Vicious, Dusty Rhodes, Savage-Hogan, Samoan Swat Team, Wendi Richter.

June 1989: Ultimate Warrior's Mission Impossible: Destroy Randy Savage For Hulk Hogan. Also: Rick Steamboat, Rick Martel, Larry Zbyszko, Luger-Windham by Sting, Ric Flair.

July 1989: Dino Bravo: The Man Hulk Hogan Cannot Beat! Also: Flair-Steamboat, Rhodes & Perez, Road Warriors & Ellering, Michael Hayes.

Aug. 1989 (Special Issue): Supercard Sunday! Exclusive Coverage Of WrestleMania V And Clash Of Champions VI. Also: Kerry-Embry, Randy Savage, Great Muta, Ted DiBiase, Teddy Long.

Sept. 1989: Our Urgent Plea To Ric Flair: Don't Wrestle Terry Funk. Also: Demolition, Roddy Piper, Hogan-Zeus, Larry Zbyszko, Jerry Lawler.

Oct. 1989: No Holds Barred! Hogan & Beefcake vs. Savage & Zeus: An Exclusive Preview & Analysis. Also: Eric Embry, Four Horsemen, Teddy Long, Hayes-Luger, Art Barr, Billy Jack Haynes.

Nov. 1989: Roddy Piper Pins Randy Savage ... And Hulk Hogan Is Scared Stiff! Also: Mr. T & Von Erichs, Garvin & Hayes, Flair-T. Funk, Dustin-Steel Man, Sgt. Slaughter.

Jan. 1990: The Hulk Hogan Book Of Lists. Also: Brian Pillman, Rich-Luger, Tully & Arn, P.Y. Chu-Hi, Greg Gagne.

March 1990: Funk-Flair: "I Quit!—One War Ends, Two More Begin. Also: Nikita Koloff, Survivor Series, Steiners, Hogan-Zeus, Jim Cornette.

April 1990: Hulk Hogan: A Decade Of Greatness. Also: Luger-Flair, Woman, Piper-Heenan, Billy Travis, Badd Company.

May 1990: Sting & Ultimate Warrior: Running A Parallel Course To Greatness. Also: Von Erichs, Big Bossman, Pillman & Zenk, Hulk Hogan, Mark Callous.

July 1990: My 10 Challenges To Ric Flair, By Lex Luger. Also: Lanny Poffo, Dusty-Savage, Luger-Flair, Doom, Tully Blanchard.

Aug. 1990: Hogan-Warrior II: You Can Make It Happen. Also: Eric Embry, Demolition, Doom, Larry Zbyszko.

Sept. 1990: The Ultimate Warrior Wimps Out! Why He Won't Wrestle Hulk Hogan. Also: Billy Jack Haynes, Lex Luger, Doom-Steiners, Tugboat, Kerry-Borne.

Oct. 1990: Hulk Hogan vs. Earthquake: Exclusive SummerSlam Preview & Analysis. Also: Ultimate Warrior, Ric Flair, Tommy Rich, Tasmanian Devil, Chris Von Erich.

Nov. 1990: The Luger-Sting Rivalry: Ready To Explode Again! Also: Harley Race, Lawler-Dundee, Brutus Beefcake, Hennig-Von Erich, Southern Boys.

Dec. 1990 (Special Issue): SummerSlam! Exclusive Full-Color Coverage! Also: Stan Hansen, Arn Anderson, Ultimate Warrior, Vic Steamboat, Scott Putski.

Feb. 1991: The Incredible "Halloween Havoc Hoax"! Unraveling The Diabolical Plot. Also: Muta-Steamboat, Hogan-Hart, Ultimate Warrior, Cornette & Express, Norman.

March 1991: Warning To The Ultimate Warrior: Roddy Piper Wants You! Also: Gilbert-Jarrett, Cornette & Express, Teddy Long, Survivor Series, Scott Norton.

April 1991: Hulk Hogan: The Challenges That Remain. Also: Ted DiBiase, Skyscrapers, Lex Luger, Tom Zenk, Fabulous Ones.

May 1991: Only Hulk Hogan Can Rid The WWF Of The Stench Of Sgt. Slaughter. Also: Ric Flair, Bobby Eaton, Sheik-Brazil, Power & Glory, Terry Funk.

June 1991: How Much Longer Can We Depend On Hulk Hogan? Also: Nasty Boys, Sting, Flair-Gigante, Cactus Jack, Kevin Von Erich.

July 1991: Can Ric Flair Shatter The "Myth" Of Japanese Superiority? Also: Embry & Prichard, LOD-Nastys, Steiners, Savage & Elizabeth.

Aug. 1991: If Sgt. Slaughter Said "I'm Sorry" ... Would Hulk And The World Forgive Him? Also: Luger-Nikita, Hennig-Davey Boy, Lanny Poffo, Bam Bam Bigelow.

Nov. 1991: Lex Luger Wins The Title—But Loses His Fans. Also: Rick Steamboat, Roddy Piper, Global, Diamond Studd, Lawler-Embry.

Dec. 1991: Roddy Piper's Exclusive Analysis: Flair vs. Hogan—Who Will Win The Match Of The Century? Also: Sting, 25 greatest teams, Beverly, Cactus Jack.

Jan. 1992: The LOD's Championship Catastrophe: Overpowered By The Natural Disasters. Also: Johnny B. Badd, Mr. Hughes, Jake Roberts, Ronnie Gossett.

Feb. 1992: Shocking WWF Report: McMahon Offers Bounty On Flair—Will Vince Pay The Piper? Also: Ron Simmons, Tito Santana, Bob Backlund, R. Steiner-Abdullah.

March 1992: After Survivor Series & Tuesday In Texas: Has The WWF Title Suffered Irreparable Damage? Also: Brian Pillman, Anderson & Bruiser, Rude-Sting, Mountie-Hart, Jeff Jarrett.

April 1992: After A Year Of Tragedy & Turmoil: The

Magic Is Back In WCW! Also: Chris Candido, Paul Orndorff, Lady X, Paul Bearer, Hennig & Flair, Michaels & Jannetty.

Dec. 1992: He's *Baaaaaack!* Jake Roberts Slithers Into WCW. Also: Paul E. Dangerously, Ron Simmons, Hulk Hogan, Michaels-Martel, Gilberts-Rock 'n' Rolls.

May 1992: He Rumbled Past 29 Men ... Ric Flair's Hour Of Power: Can One Man Stop Him At WrestleMania VIII? Also: Anderson & Eaton, Roddy Piper, Dusty Rhodes, USWA, Don Owen.

June 1992: In Ric Flair's High-Stakes Championship Game, Hulk Hogan & Sid Justice Are Mere Pawns. Also: Eddie Gilbert, Ultimate Warrior, Vinnie Vegas, WCW titles, Koko B. Ware.

July 1992: "Number Two Just Won't Do": For Rick Rude, The U.S. Belt Means Failure; Also: Madusa, Gorilla Monsoon, LOD, Nurse Vanessa, Greg Valentine, Sabu.

Aug. 1992: The Ultimate Warrior: WrestleMania's Accidental Hero. Also: Bunkhouse matches, Undertaker-Roberts, Sting, JYD, Rob Van Dam.

Sept. 1992: Hey, Legion Of Doom—Go For The Title Or Go Away! Also: Repo-Crush, Mondo Kleen, Freebirds-Valentine & Taylor, Dangerous Alliance, Mooridogs.

Oct. 1992: British Bulldog & Ultimate Warrior: Why They'll Be Crowned At SummerSlam. Also: Scotty Flamingo, Brian Lee, Martel-Tatanka, Steve Austin, Sting.

Nov. 1992: WWF Beware! It's The Perfect Time For A Curt Hennig Comeback! Also: Crush, Butch Reed, Sting, Buddy Rogers, Dan Spivey.

Jan. 1993: Sting Turns Sadistic: "Hurting Jake Makes Me Happy!" Also: Anderson & Eaton, Bushwhackers-Moondogs, Ramon-Savage, Natural Disasters, Masa Chono.

Feb. 1993: WWF Champion Bret Hart: His Five Most Dangerous Challenges. Also: Sgt. Slaughter, Steve Austin, Rick Steiner, Bob Backlund, Terry Taylor.

April 1993 What's In? What's Out? Also: Razor Ramon, Rick Steamboat, Patriot, Tatanka, Brian Christopher.

May 1993: Sumo Sadism: Will Yokozuna Make His Biggest Splash At WrestleMania? Also: Jim Cornette, Christopher-Jarrett, Benoit-Scorpio, Windham & Rhodes, Hennig-Luger.

Nov. 1993: Bret Hart vs. Lex Luger: It's Not Over Yet! Also: Rude-Dustin, Hulk Hogan, Marty Jannetty, Heavenly Bodies, Tatanka, Sherri Martel.

Jan. 1994: Roasted, Broiled, Fried, Baked ... Any Way You Cook It, Hogan's A Chicken! Also: Rude-Flair, Bagwell & Scorpio, Jim Cornette, Jerry Lawler, Hansen & T, Funk-Abdullah & Sullivan.

May 1994: Aftershocks! How The Royal Rumble Shook Up WrestleMania. Also: Hulk Hogan, Boss, Douglas-Sherri, Patriot, improve WCW.

July 1994: Ric Flair vs. Hulk Hogan: We Preview The Inevitable Battle. Also: Dreamer-Snuka, Jim Crockett's WWN, Ted DiBiase, Shane Douglas, Terra Ryzing.

Aug. 1994: Bret's Nightmare Team Becomes A Reality: Owen Hart & Yokozuna. Also: Cactus-Vader, MOM, Flair-Badd, Nasty Boys, Luna Vachon.

Sept. 1994 (Special Issue): WWF Midyear Report! Also: Big Van Vader, Parker-Hollywood Blonds, Sting-Rude, WWF legal problems, Prince Kharis, Bunkhouse-Rhodes, Public Enemy.

Nov. 1994: Hulk Hogan's New Commandments: Say Prayers, Take Vitamins ... And Kick Butt! Also: Owen-Bret, Lord Steven Regal, Johnny B. Badd, Jerry Lawler, Mikey Whipwreck.

Jan. 1995: Our Holiday Wish List For 1995. Also: Johnny B. Badd, DiBiase-Tatanka, Bob Backlund, PG-13, Hacksaw Duggan.

March 1995 (Special Issue): 1994—The Year In Pictures. Also: Sullivan-Hogan-Sullivan, WWF '95-WWF '85, Ric Flair, MOM, 911.

April 1995: Imagine Wrestling Today If ... Also: Gunn & Smothers, Harlem Heat, Money Inc., Lawler-Cornette.

July 1995: Hulk Hogan's Contract With America. Also: Marty Jannetty, Brian Pillman, Lawrence Taylor, Bill Dundee.

Sept. 1995 (Special Issue): WWF Mid-Year Report. Also: Sting, Funk-Cactus, Flair-Hogan, Razor Ramon, Undertaker.

Oct. 1995: President Backlund?! Also: Steiners, Austin & Pillman, Miss Texas, Gordon Solie.

Dec. 1995 (Special Issue): 20Shawn Michaels: Too Good To Be Second Best! Also: Wrestling rulebook, Vega-Ramon, Mama Cornette, Kamala-Duggan, Big Van Vader.

Winter 1995: Exclusive Preview: Sting vs. Hogan: This Time It's For Real! Also: Steiners, Yankem-Undertaker, Bodies-Cornette, Arn Anderson.

May 1996: WWF In-Vader! Can Bret, Shawn, & Razor Play The Pain Game? Also: Public Enemy, Steve Austin, wrestling oddities, Kensuke Sasaki, Ric Flair.

June 1996 (Special Issue): Fear Of Height! How The Giant Is Paralyzing Wrestling. Also: Shock 'n' Wrestling, Razor Ramon, Brian Pillman, Konnan.

Aug. 1996: Shawn Michaels: Finally—He Has The Title ... Now Here's What He's Gotta Do With It! Also: Public Enemy-Nastys, Bret Hart, Booty Man-Sullivan, Mabel.

Sept. 1996 (Special Issue): WWF Midyear Report. Also: Savio Vega, Sabu-Scorpio, Chris Benoit, Goldust, Olympians, Giant.

Oct. 1996: Muscling Back To The Top: The Warrior Is Ready To Rule Again. Also: Warriors & Sasaki-Steiners & Norton, Razor & Diesel, Mabel & Mo, Blue Meanie.

Nov. 1996: Brian Pillman: Next WWF Champ! Also: Giant-Sting, Ray Stevens, Dick Murdoch, Cloudy, John Tenta, WCW shuffle.

Dec. 1996 (Special Issue): WWF vs. WCW: Top 10 Faceoff! Also: Ahmed Johnson, Ric Flair, Mero & Sable, Goldust, Sandman.

Holiday 1996: WCW Shocker: Randy Savage Is Set To Join Hulk Hogan's NWO! Also: Steve Austin, Michaels-Goldust, Arn Anderson, Van Dam-Sabu, Steve Williams.

Jan. 1997: It Could Happen! Hogan's Next Move ... Buy WCW! Also: Undertaker, New Jack, Owen-Bulldog, Ted DiBiase.

Feb. 1997: Wrestling's Top Stars: What 1997 Has In Store For Them! Also: Michaels-Hart, Pit Bull I, Rey Misterio Jr., Kevin Nash.

July 1997: Infighting, Politics, Egos: Is The NWO Losing Its Edge? Also: WWF-ECW, Dean Malenko, Super 8 tourney, Jerry Lawler.

Sept. 1997 (Special Issue): WWF Midyear Report: Plus: NWO, Shawn-Bret, football players, Terry & Dory Funk, Luna.

Oct. 1997: Bret Hart & Shawn Michaels: How Low Will They Go? Also: Paul E. Dangerously, DDP & Kimberly, Rhodes family, Keiji Muto.

Nov. 1997: 10-Year Grudge! Lex Luger's Career Ruined By J.J. Dillon? Also: Shawn-Bret, Jeff Jarrett, Hunter Hearst Helmsley, Dreamer-Raven, Dan Severn.

Dec. 1997 (Special Issue): WWF vs. WCW: Top 10 Faceoff! Also: Guerreros, Taz, Syxx, Paul Bearer, Brian Christopher.

Hol. 1997: First Owen ... Then 'Taker ... Then Hogan: Who's Gonna Go Next? Also: Steve Austin, Bret Hart, Lex Luger, Ric Flair, Dean Malenko.

April 1998: "We've Won!" Maybe ... But Can The NWO Handle Its Own Success? Also: Ken Shamrock, Steiners-Warriors, Douglas & Francine, Rocky Maivia.

Aug. 1998: We Stand Behind Ya, Vince! It's Time To Fire Austin. Also: Luna-Sable, Randy Savage, Dean Malenko, Super 8 tourney.

Sept. 1998: (Special Issue): WWF Midyear Report: Also: Nash-Hogan, Rocky Maivia, Bill Goldberg, Antonio Inoki.

Oct. 1998: The Mother Of All Pay-Per-Views! A WWF-WCW Supercard Is No Longer Just Talk! Also: Sable, Undertaker, Randy Savage, Sabu & Van Dam.

Nov. 1998: Demons Be Damned! Sting Makes The Giant See Red! Also: McMahon-Dude, Jarrett-Blackman, Melanie Pillman, Rey Misterio Jr.

Dec. 1998 (Special Issue): WWF vs. WCW: Top 10 Faceoff! Also: ECW midyear report, Ric Flair, Kane.

Hol. 1998: "Quit, Mick!" A Desperate Plea From A Distraught Wife. Also: Chris Jericho, Jason Sensation, wrestlers vs. celebrities, hardcore war.

Jan. 1999: Stone-Cold's Personal Survivor Series. Also: Rock-HHH, NWA, Bret Hart, Howard Finkel, three-way title matches.

Feb. 1999: Hot Rocks! The Anger That Drives Shamrock & The Rock. Also: McMahon-Austin, Spike Dudley, Eric Bischoff, Perry Saturn.

March 1999 (Special Issue): 1998—The Year In Pictures. Also: Hall & Nash, Goldust, Mr. Ooh La La, The Undertaker.

April 1999: Hogan's Retirement: White House Or White Lie? Also: DDP-Hart, Taz-Douglas, Steve Austin, Mankind.

May 1999: Team Coverage: The NWO Reunion! Also: Kane-McMahon, Dallas Page, Funk-Abdullah, WWF sideshow.

June 1999 (Special Issue): Ric Flair: The 10 Feats He Must Accomplish Before He's Through. Also: Rocky Maivia, Juventud Guerrera, Billy Gunn, body parts quiz section.

July 1999: Our Bottom Line ... It's High Time Austin Shows McMahon Respect! Also: Jerry Lawler, Rey Misterio Jr., Ken Shamrock, DDP-Bigelow-Goldberg.

Aug. 1999: This Man Is Pure Evil! Trust Hogan And He'll Take You To Hell! Plus: Owen Hart, Vader, Sable.

Sept. 1999 (Special Issue): WWF Midyear Report. Also: DDP-Sting, Douglas-Credible, Big Show-McMahons, Disco Inferno, Keirn & Lane.

Oct. 1999: Shawn Michaels' Game Of Corporate Chess! Are The McMahons His Pawns? Also: Steiners, Billy Gunn, Savage & George.

Nov. 1999: Austin's New Powers: Shag Vince? Yeah, Baby! Also: Arn-Sid, Hardy Boys, Ernest Miller, Naoya Ogawa.

Dec. 1999 (Special Issue): WWF vs. WCW: Top 10 Faceoff! Also: ECW midyear report, David & Ric Flair, Test & Stephanie.

Hol. 1999: Before The WWF Can Sell ... Read What They Had To Tell! Also: Kanyon, Big Show, Spike & Mahoney-Axl & New Jack, Kevin Nash.

Jan. 2000: An Insider's Analysis: Why The Guys Can't Handle Chyna. Also: Revolution, ECW expansion, Guerrero & Misterio, WWF/WCW/ECW women.

Feb. 2000: When Will Mankind Finally Tell The Rock ... "Put A Sock In It"? Also: Goldberg, Chris Jericho, Sabu, Harlem Heat.

Apr. 2000: Can The WWF Survive Without Steve Austin? Also: Dawn Marie-Francine, Meng, Big Show, Madusa.

May 2000: StePHONY: The Most Mistrusted McMahon Of All! Also: Harlem Heat & Midnight, David & Ric Flair, Kurt Angle, Rhino.

June 2000 (Special Issue): The Rock: No. 1 On The Jabroni Hit List! Also: Awesome-Van Dam, Kurt Angle, Vampiro, federation jumpers, book of lists.

July 2000: Tori/Torrie, What's The Story? How They Rank In 10 Crucial Categories. Also: Big Show, Tank Abbott, Too Cool, Rhodes-Dreamer, Jeff Jarrett.

Aug. 2000: We're Con-Vinced! This Attack Saved The WWF! Also: Lex Luger, Radicals, Sandman & Rhino, Cyrus.

Sept. 2000 (Special Issue): WWF Mid-Year Report. Also: Mike Awesome, Nova & Chetti, Paul Wight, Chyna, Dr. Sam Sheppard.

Oct. 2000: Is Chyna Robbing Eddie Of His Latino Heat? Also: Abbott-Steiner, Scotty Too Hotty, Rob Van Dam, David Flair.

Nov. 2000: Special Fear Issue—Rock-Benoit, Ric Flair, HBK. Also: ECW mid-year report, Bill Goldberg.

Dec. 2000 (Special Issue): WWF vs. WCW: Top 10 Faceoff! Also: Goldberg-Triple-H, Daffney, Christian & Edge, Jeff Peterson.

(ALL-COLOR BEGINNING WITH THE JANUARY 2001 ISSUE)

Jan. 2001: WWF Brat-titude! Does Steph Always Get Her Way? Not On Your Life! Also: Lance Storm, Mick Foley, Goldberg, Steve Corino, Steve Blackman, Torrie Wilson.

March 2001: Triple-H & The Rock: 10 Reasons They Should Trust Each Other ... 10 Reasons They Should Not! Also: Scott Steiner, Chris Candido, Rob Van Dam, McMahon-ECW, Steven Richards, WCW factions.

May 2001: Do Anything You Want, Stone-Cold: We Can't Hate You. Also: Kronic, Rikishi, Steve Corino, Goldberg, Edge & Christian, Kane.

July 2001: Jerichoholics Beware! Serious Withdrawal Symptoms Are In Store! Also: Tajiri, Steph-Test, Undertaker, Mike Awesome, WCW Elite, Albert.

Sept. 2001: The Rock's Choice: Honor Over Glory! Also: WrestleMania X-Seven, Undertaker-Triple-H, Shane-WCW, TCL II, Scott Hall, Vince McMahon, Chris Jericho.

Nov. 2001: Goldberg! Da Man Who Could Make Or Break Wrestling! Also: Dudleys, Steve Corino, Chris Benoit, Dusty Rhodes, Lita, WWF top tier.

Jan. 2002: Can The Rock Handle The Unrelenting Pressure Of Fame? Also: RVD, Paul Heyman, Terry Gordy, Flash-Jericho, Tajiri-Tazz, WWF-Alliance.

March 2002: Outsiders Looking In! Hall & Nash Take Aim At The WWF! Also: Ivory, Austin-Angle, Christian-Edge, what's ahead in '02.

THE Wrestler

ONLY $5 EACH

Please send me the back issues of THE WRESTLER I have checked off. I have enclosed $5 for each issue as payment in full or provided my credit card number to charge my purchase ($20 minimum).

☐ DEC 78	☐ JUN 83	☐ FEB 87	☐ OCT 89	☐ MAR 92	☐ APR 95	☐ MAR 98	☐ APR 00
☐ MAR 79	☐ JUL 83	☐ MAR 87	☐ NOV 89	☐ APR 92	☐ JUN 95	☐ APR 98	☐ MAY 00
☐ MAY 79	☐ SEP 83	☐ JUN 87	☐ JAN 90	☐ MAY 92	☐ JUL 95	☐ AUG 98	☐ JUN 00
☐ JUL 79	☐ NOV 83	☐ JUL 87	☐ MAR 90	☐ JUN 92	☐ SEP 95	☐ SEP 98	☐ JUL 00
☐ SEP 79	☐ DEC 83	☐ SEP 87	☐ APR 90	☐ JUL 92	☐ OCT 95	☐ OCT 98	☐ AUG 00
☐ APR 80	☐ MAR 84	☐ OCT 87	☐ MAY 90	☐ AUG 92	☐ DEC 95	☐ NOV 98	☐ SEP 00
☐ AUG 80	☐ JUL 84	☐ DEC 87	☐ JUL 90	☐ SEP 92	☐ WIN 95	☐ DEC 98	☐ OCT 00
☐ SEP 80	☐ AUG 84	☐ JAN 88	☐ AUG 90	☐ OCT 92	☐ MAY 96	☐ HOL 98	☐ NOV 00
☐ OCT 80	☐ SEP 84	☐ FEB 88	☐ SEP 90	☐ NOV 92	☐ JUN 96	☐ JAN 99	☐ DEC 00
☐ FEB 81	☐ NOV 84	☐ MAR 88	☐ OCT 90	☐ DEC 92	☐ AUG 96	☐ FEB 99	☐ JAN 01
☐ JUN 81	☐ DEC 84	☐ APR 88	☐ NOV 90	☐ JAN 93	☐ SEP 96	☐ MAR 99	☐ MAR 01
☐ AUG 81	☐ JAN 85	☐ JUN 88	☐ DEC 90	☐ FEB 93	☐ OCT 96	☐ APR 99	☐ MAY 01
☐ OCT 81	☐ FEB 85	☐ AUG 88	☐ FEB 91	☐ APR 93	☐ NOV 96	☐ MAY 99	☐ JUL 01
☐ JAN 82	☐ APR 85	☐ OCT 88	☐ MAR 91	☐ MAY 93	☐ DEC 96	☐ JUN 99	☐ SEP 01
☐ MAR 82	☐ JUN 85	☐ JAN 89	☐ APR 91	☐ NOV 93	☐ HOL 96	☐ JUL 99	☐ NOV 01
☐ APR 82	☐ JUL 85	☐ FEB 89	☐ MAY 91	☐ JAN 94	☐ JAN 97	☐ AUG 99	☐ JAN 02
☐ JUN 82	☐ AUG 85	☐ MAR 89	☐ JUN 91	☐ MAY 94	☐ FEB 97	☐ SEP 99	☐ MAR 02
☐ AUG 82	☐ OCT 85	☐ APR 89	☐ JUL 91	☐ JUL 94	☐ JUL 97	☐ OCT 99	
☐ SEP 82	☐ JUN 86	☐ MAY 89	☐ AUG 91	☐ AUG 94	☐ SEP 97	☐ NOV 99	
☐ DEC 82	☐ JUL 86	☐ JUN 89	☐ NOV 91	☐ SEP 94	☐ OCT 97	☐ DEC 99	
☐ JAN 83	☐ NOV 86	☐ JUL 89	☐ DEC 91	☐ NOV 94	☐ NOV 97	☐ HOL 99	
☐ FEB 83	☐ DEC 86	☐ AUG 89	☐ JAN 92	☐ JAN 95	☐ DEC 97	☐ JAN 00	
☐ MAY 83	☐ JAN 87	☐ SEP 89	☐ FEB 92	☐ MAR 95	☐ HOL 97	☐ FEB 00	

Indicate substitute choice: _____

Send To: **LONDON PUBLISHING CO.**
BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

☐ Check or money order
(enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: ___/___
MO YR

Signature: _____

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. ____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

For all orders outside the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent via surface mail, and $3.00 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

5779/11-01

PWI classic

From the June 1993 issue

ROLE REVERSAL, *TITLE* REVERSAL:

JERRY LAWLER HOLDS OFF CURT HENNIG

In the WWF, fan favorite Jerry Lawler assumes the role of rulebreaker in order to antagonize long-time enemy Curt Hennig. When "Mr. Perfect" went to the USWA to challenge "The King," he did just the same. With all this switching going on, it's no wonder the belt switched hands twice in one night!

By Chris Bernucca

Since the start of civilization, there have been mortal enemies. The Spartans and the Greeks. The Hatfields and the McCoys. The Bloods and the Crips. For whatever reasons of proximity, principle, and premise, these antagonists have always spent an inordinate amount of time and energy hating each other.

You can add Jerry Lawler and Curt Hennig to that list, too. The two of them go together about as well as ketchup on a banana split.

Lawler and Hennig just don't like each other. Lawler is a 12-time

Jerry Lawler defies the orders of referee Paul Neighbors and sets up "Mr. Perfect" for a piledriver, a move that was banned in the USWA. Even though Lawler was a fan favorite in Memphis, he never thought twice about using this move against an arch-rival.

USWA champion. Hennig is a former WWF Intercontinental champion. Both men held the AWA World title. Lawler is from Memphis, Tennessee, a Southern city that is home to Elvis and roughhouse wrestling. Hennig is from Minnesota, a Northern state that is home to Bob Dylan and scientific grappling. Lawler is a man of the people, while Hennig insulates himself from the public. And Lawler is a fan favorite, while Hennig is a rulebreaker.

Unless, of course, the two men cross paths in the WWF, where Lawler is the rulebreaker and Hennig is the fan favorite.

"I never liked Curt Hennig," said Lawler. "And I'm sure he doesn't care for me much, either. We don't see eye-to-eye on anything. That's the way it's been, the way it is, and the way it's gonna be for a long, long time."

These two men despise each other so much that both find it impossible to share the same locker room. If Hennig is a fan favorite, you can be sure Lawler will be a rulebreaker. And if Lawler assumes his normal role as fan favorite, it's a pretty safe bet that Hennig will be breaking the rules.

The rancor began in the AWA in 1988, when Lawler defeated Hennig in front of the Memphis faithful for that federation's title. Hennig moved on to the WWF, where he won the I-C title as a rulebreaker. Lawler continued to dominate the USWA as a fan favorite. Late in 1992, Hennig returned to active competition in the WWF as a fan favorite. Lawler immediately replaced Hennig on *WWF Prime Time Wrestling*, assuming a rulebreaker stance. Lawler used much of his airtime to verbally assault Hennig.

Verbal became physical at the Royal Rumble in Sacramento, California, on January 24, where Hennig was cheered and Lawler jeered by the Arco Arena crowd as they traded blows during the 30-man main event.

"I was confused," admitted Joel Harmon, a 13-year-old fan from Daly City, California. "I had never seen Jerry Lawler wrestle, but all I had read about him led me to believe he was a fan favorite. Then he stepped into the ring at the Royal Rumble and began attacking fan favorites. I didn't

Hennig didn't just want to beat "The King"—he wanted to humiliate him in a federation in which he was revered. Funny, but the same could be said of Lawler when the two came to blows in the WWF.

Tony Anthony

PWI ratings

June 1993

TOP 10
1. Vader
2. Bret Hart
3. Dustin Rhodes
5. Yokozuna
6. Tatanka
7. Jerry Lawler
8. Brian Christopher
9. Sting
10. Tony Anthony

TAG TEAMS
1. Shane Douglas & Rick Steamboat
2. Steve Austin & Brian Pillman
3. The Nasty Boys
4. Money Inc.
5. Rick & Scott Steiner
6. The Headshrinkers
7. The Heavenly Bodies
8. The Moondogs
9. The Wrecking Crew
10. Bad Breed

WCW
World champion: Vader
1. Dustin Rhodes
2. Sting
3. Cactus Jack
4. Paul Orndorff
5. Barry Windham
6. Ron Simmons
7. Chris Benoit
8. 2 Cold Scorpio
9. Erik Watts
10. Steve Regal

WWF
World champion: Bret Hart
1. Shawn Michaels
2. Yokozuna
3. Tatanka
4. The Undertaker
5. Bob Backlund
6. Rick Martel
7. Big Bossman
8. Razor Ramon
9. Doink
10. Skinner

ECW
Heavyweight champion: The Sandman
1. Jimmy Snuka
2. Don Muraco
3. Terry Funk
4. Salvatore Bellomo
5. Rockin' Rebel
6. Johnny Hot Body
7. Glen Osbourne
8. Ivan Koloff
9. J.T. Smith
10. Tommy Cairo

MOST POPULAR
1. Sting
2. Bret Hart
3. Curt Hennig
4. The Undertaker
5. Crush
6. Dustin Rhodes
7. Bob Backlund
8. Ron Simmons
9. Randy Savage
10. Cactus Jack

MOST HATED
1. Yokozuna
2. Barry Windham
3. Doink
4. Vader
5. Shawn Michaels
6. Tony Anthony
7. Brian Christopher
8. Arn Anderson
9. Kevin Sullivan
10. Razor Ramon

A surge of adrenaline helped Lawler take control of the match. With the crowd definitely not on his side, Hennig knew he had to take a few shortcuts if that were at all possible.

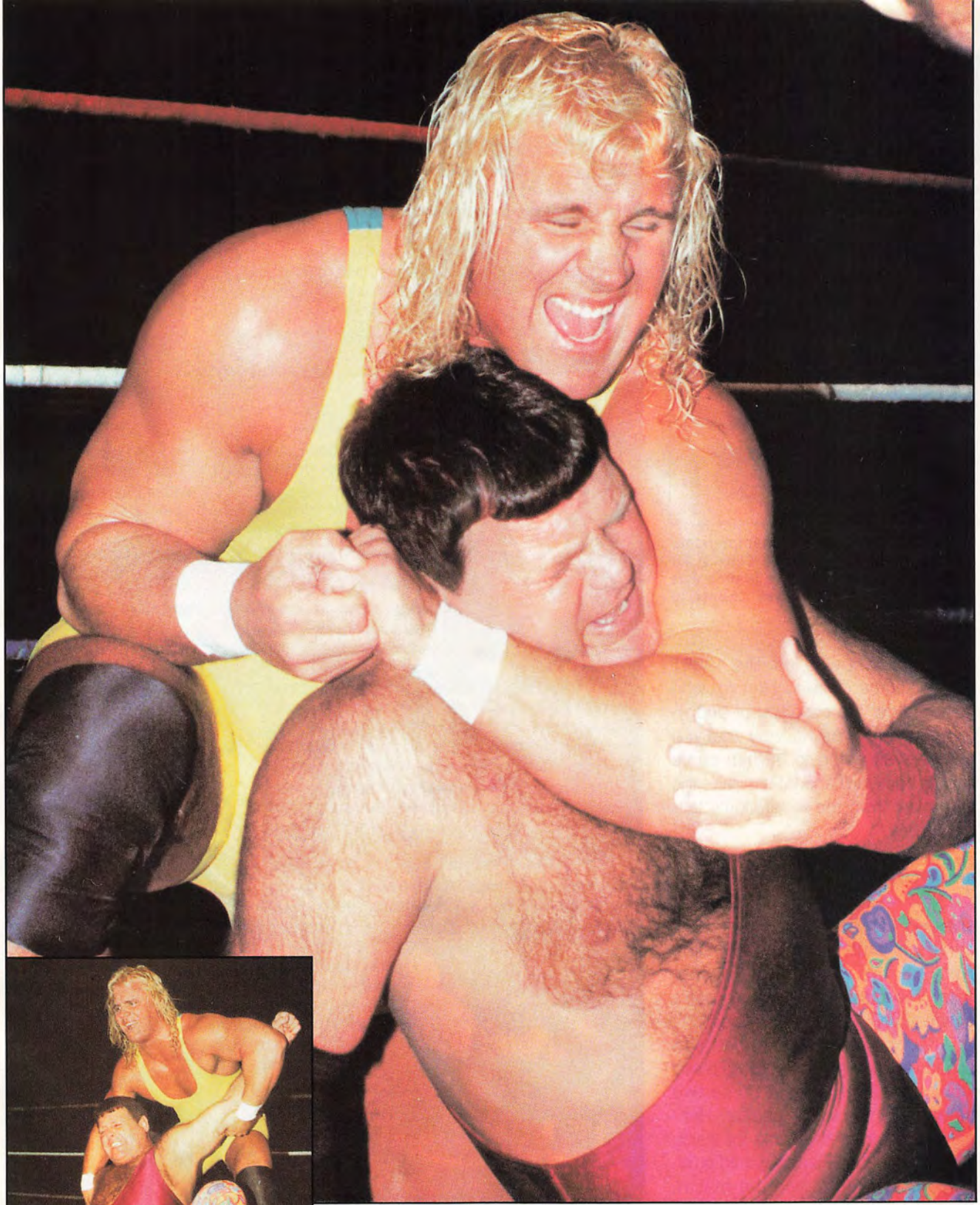
understand that at all."

Just eight days later at the Mid-South Coliseum, it was Lawler drawing the cheers, while Hennig was nearly booed out of the building. Although both men had rotated their postures 180 degrees, they were still at opposite poles.

That night, Hennig had received a title shot from Lawler and was making the most of it, gaining a slight upper hand in the early going. Referee Paul Neighbors was accidentally knocked out, giving Hennig the opportunity he needed. He gave Lawler a piledriver, an illegal move in the USWA.

Lawler recovered and retaliated with a piledriver of his own. Neighbors came to and saw Lawler set to administer a second piledriver. The referee warned Lawler that he would lose his championship belt if he piledrived Hennig.

"The King" ignored the warning and delivered the blow. Neighbors signaled for the bell and the belt, handing the hardware to a dazed Hennig. As the arena crowd cried in protest, referee Frank Morell came to



"Mr. Perfect" used chinlocks (above) and other scientific holds (left) to try to gain advantages against the Memphis monarch. But when it came time for him to try to put the match away, he went right for "The King's" favorite move, the piledriver.

the ring and conferred with Neighbors. When Morell informed Neighbors that Hennig had delivered the first piledriver, Neighbors reversed his decision, returning the belt to Lawler.

Hennig was visibly upset by the decision. Afterward, he revealed to friends that he thought he had been the victim of some hometown officiating.

The USWA heavyweight championship belt was in the hands of "Mr. Perfect" for only a few seconds before justice was served and the hardware was returned to its rightful owner.

"Curt said it was just like 1988," said a source close to Hennig, who spoke under the condition of anonymity. "There was no way that the USWA was going to let him come into its backyard and let him take the title away from the federation's fair-haired boy."

Lawler didn't have any sympathy for Hennig's plight.

"Now he knows what it feels like," sneered Lawler. "Does he actually think that stuff didn't go on in the AWA? If you weren't from Minnesota, you didn't have a snowball's chance in hell in that federation."

Although no rematch has been scheduled, it will be interesting to see what transpires should these two meet under the WWF banner. Hennig would have no excuse for losing to Lawler. In fact, Hennig would probably be favored to win the match, despite his lack of success against Lawler throughout his career.

For now, however, the two will continue to agree to disagree. Lawler will remain "The King" of Memphis and the court jester of the WWF. Hennig will be a "perfect" gentleman in the WWF and a cad in the USWA.

Please pass the ketchup. □

PWI, June 1993

The cover: A hellish homecoming is the term we used to describe Ric Flair's return to WCW following a successful run in the WWF. Why the hellish homecoming for one of WCW's all-time greats? Because he was returning as a fan favorite. As a result, his prospects for re-forming The Four Horsemen or another group that could offer him protection seemed dim, and he still had many old enemies—heel and fan favorite—who wanted a shot at him. Still, the "Nature Boy" found a way to survive and thrive.

The centerfold: Scott Hall was the featured subject, although at the time, most fans knew him as the WWF's Razor Ramon, a man who "oozed machismo." The "Bad Guy" had recently turned in some fine performances against the likes of Curt Hennig and Big Bossman, and shortly after the issue came out, he turned fan favorite and targeted the Intercontinental title. Back then, Hall was still considered by many to be an underachiever. That tag didn't stick to him much longer.

Kamala Gets Civilized: For those of you who never saw Kamala, he is difficult to describe. He was billed as a savage from the jungles of Uganda. And he was wild—so wild that even his various managers/handlers struggled to control him in the ring and outside it. He was powerful, vicious, and intimidating, sure, but he also lacked the discipline to be WWF champ. Or did he? Some thought his new manager, Slick, was changing him for the better. Maybe so, but Kamala never did win WWF gold.

Harley Loses Control: While one manager (Slick) was finding ways to control his charge, another, Harley Race, was losing control of his, Vader. Locker room rumors suggested that Vader was more interested in hurting people, primarily Sting, than maintaining a tight grip on the WCW World title, which Race thought should be his focus. Many wrestlers worried that if Vader and Race were to split, Vader would become more sadistic and dangerous than ever.

Egomania Runs Wild: The WWF has always been full of wrestlers who are very high on their own looks and abilities, but there was an unusually high number of narcissists (including "The Narcissist" Lex Luger) competing there in early-1993. Insiders predicted that Shawn Michaels, Luger, "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig, or Razor Ramon (and maybe more than one of them) was in for a huge fall, and given the size and fragile nature of the egos of all those men, such falls could be quite damaging to their careers.

BACK ISSUES!

Since its debut in 1992, the Wrestle America concept has proven to be wildly popular with the wrestling public. No other magazine offers such well-rounded coverage of the U.S. wrestling scene. Supplies of back issues are limited, and at only $5 apiece (postage included), they are moving fast. Order today!

Aug. 1992: In Search Of An American Hero. Color centerfold—Dustin Rhodes vs. Arn Anderson. Plus: Ultimate Warrior, Jerry Lawler, Sting.

Sept. 1992: Papa Shango Possesses ... The Warrior! Color centerfold—Sabu vs. Mr. Onita. Plus: Sting-Nikita Koloff, Jim Cornette, SMW.

Oct. 1992: Summerslam: Everything You Need To Know About This Mega-Event. Color centerfold—Undertaker vs. Berzerker. Plus: Mike Davis, Windham-Austin.

Nov. 1992: Trading Places: The Steiners For Gordy & Williams—Bad Deal. Color centerfold Jerry Lawler & Jeff Jarrett vs. The Moondogs. Plus: Virgil, ECW, Bob Backlund.

Dec. 1992: Hulk Hogan Left Wrestling For This? Color Centerfold—The Ultimate Warrior vs. Papa Shango. Plus: NWA belt, Brian Pillman, Rock 'n' Roll Express.

Jan. 1993: The Ultimate Destiny Of The Ultimate Maniacs: Self-Destruction. Color Centerfold—Greg Valentine vs. Rick Steiner. Plus: Scott Steiner-Hawk, Kowalski-Tolos.

Feb. 1993: Can The WWF Withstand The Real Bam Bam Bigelow? Color Centerfold—Repo Man vs. Crush. Plus: Brian Christopher, Vader-Rude.

March 1993: The Complete Madusa: The Story Of Wrestling's Sexiest Women. Color Centerfold—Calendar. Plus: Rock 'n' Roll Express, Nasty Boys, Funk-Gilbert.

April 1993: Overwhelmed By Savage Intensity: The "Macho Man" Needs A Break. Color Centerfold—Jushin Liger vs. Rick Steamboat. Plus: Steamboat & Douglas, Dustin Rhodes, Sullivan-Lee, super heavyweights.

Nov. 1993: The King Is Dead! Long Live The (Burger) King! Color Centerfold—Sid Vicious vs. Sting. Plus: Nasty Boys, 1-2-3 Kid, Ted DiBiase, Brian Lee, Nasty Boys.

Winter 1993: Power Bomb Explosion At Starrcade! Finally, Vader vs. Vicious. WWF World title history. Plus: Rock 'n' Roll Express, Curt Hennig, Rick Steamboat, Hansen-DiBiase-Deaton.

Summer 1994: Hulk Hogan As WCW Champion: How It Would Change The Sport Forever. Magazine Within A Magazine: WrestleMania X. Plus: Capt. Lou Albano, Tammy-Kimberly, Roddy Piper, Heenan & Rude.

Spring 1994: Who's Better? Does Owen Have More Hart Bret. Magazine Within A Magazine: Decade of Hulkamania. Plus: Brian Pillman, Lex Luger & Tatanka, and USWA, Flair-Race.

Fall 1994: Is Wrestling Becoming Too Hardcore For Sting? Magazine Within A Magazine: PPV Directory. Plus: Funk-Rhodes, Lex Luger, Randy Savage, Inoki-Muta.

Winter 1994: How Curt Hennig Will Make WCW "Perfect" For Ric Flair. Magazine Within A Magazine: Wrestling's Bad Guys. Plus: Hogan-Vader, Curt Hennig & Ric Flair, Yokozuna, Mr. Hughes.

Spring 1995: Color Him Bitter: Randy Savage—Why Another Feud With Hulk Hogan Is Inevitable. Magazine Within A Magazine: Guide To Independent Wrestling. Plus: Brutus Beefcake, Stu & Helen Hart, Shawn Michaels & Diesel, The Rottens.

Summer 1995: Hogan-Vader: Who Will Survive The Megawar? Magazine Within A Magazine: Megastars Fact And Trivia Book. Plus: Harlem Heat, WWF title vs. title matches, Sting, Eddie Gilbert.

Fall 1995: Diesel vs. Yokozuna: A Half-Ton Of Holy Hell! The Match The Promoters Are Afraid To Make! Magazine Within A Magazine: The Maim Event. Plus: Ric Flair, Alex Wright, Jerry Lawler, Sabu.

Winter 1995: Luger's Message To WCW: Leave Me Alone—All I Want Is The Belt! Magazine Within A Magazine: Turnbuckle Turkey Awards. Plus: Paul Orndorff, Shawn Michaels, Bret Hart, Johnny Bradford.

Spring 1996: Wrestling Shocker! A Joint WCW-WWF Supercard—Almost A Done Deal! Magazine Within A Magazine: Guide To Independent Wrestling. Plus: New Japan-WCW, Owen Hart, Dudleys.

Summer 1996: Wrestlemania XII: Finally—The Wrestlers Are The Stars. Magazine Within A Magazine: Wrestling's Sexiest Superstars. Plus: Dallas Page, WCW cruiserweight title, Godwinns.

Fall 1996: WCW Responds To Invaders: "This Means War!" Magazine Within A Magazine: The Wrestling Championship Trivia Challenge. Plus: Rod Price & Steve Austin, Shawn Michaels, Eliminators-Gangstas, Giant-Sting.

Spring 1997: Hulk Hogan: "The NWO Is Taking Over The WWF Next!" Magazine Within A Magazine: Then 20 Greatest WrestleMania Matches Ever. Plus: Malenko-Misterio, Shawn Michaels, New Razor & Diesel, Terry Funk.

Summer 1997: NWO, NOD, BWO: 21st Century Promotions? Magazine Within A Magazine: Bad To Good ... Good To Bad ... And Back Again! Plus: Bret Hart, Jacquelyn.

Fall 1997: Strip Hogan Of His Title? It's Up To You! Magazine Within A Magazine: Guide To Independent Wrestling. Plus: Psicosis, Mankind, Van Dam & Lawler, T. Rantula.

Winter 1997: Who Would Win Wrestling's Tough Man Contest? Magazine Within A Magazine: Icons' Timelines. Plus: Curt Hennig, WCW up-and-comers, Brian Christopher, Chad Hart.

April 1998: DDP: "There Are Too Many Cowards In WCW!" *Wrestling Bad Guys:* The Real Year-End Awards. Plus: Jacquelyn-Disco, Ken Shamrock, Vader, Osbourne-Mankind.

June 1998: Mero, Mero Off The Wall ... You're Not Fair To Sable At All. *Wrestling Bad Guys:* 10 Good Guys With A *Bad* Future. Plus: Lex Luger, Eddy Guerrero, Cactus-Austin, Justin Credible.

Aug. 1998: Hey, Goldberg, Slow Down! These Two-Minute Matches Are Killing You! *Wrestling Bad Guys:* Bad-O-Charts: How Our Favorites Rank In Six Categories. Plus: Bret Hart, Sabu & Van Dam, Austin-McMahon, Jim Cornette.

Oct. 1998: Lies ... Deceit ... Intrigue: How WCW Created The NWO Rift. *Wrestling Bad Guys:* Owen Hart & The Giant. Plus: Chris Benoit, Cornette-Sunny, Rocky-Faarooq, Cheetah Master, Goldberg-Austin.

Dec. 1998: The Rock Lays The Smack Down On The Fans! "Hatred Runs Cold In My Veins." *Wrestling Bad Guys:* Rulebreaking: The State Of The Game. Plus: X-Pac, Jericho-Malenko, Nicole Bass, The Giant.

Feb. 1999: His "O" Must Go: Who's Going To Break Goldberg's Streak? *Wrestling Bad Guys:* The *Real* Holiday Wish List For The Stars! Plus: The Flock, Giant Silva, Owen Hart, NWA.

April 1999: Gettin' Crazy! Inside The Heads Of Wrestling's Wackiest Men! *Wrestling Bad Guys:* The Real Year-End Awards. Plus: Horace Hogan, Billy Kidman, Jarrett-Debra, Riggins & Dunn.

June 1999: The WCW-NWO War! 10 Crucial Factors That Will Decide The Winner! *Wrestling Bad Guys: The Top 10 Turns Of All-Time.* Plus: Flair-Hall, Undertaker-Kane, Rock-Hunter, Taz.

Aug. 1999: Austin's Quandary: He Can't Destroy McMahon ... He Can't Ignore McMahon ... He Can't Live Without McMahon. *Wrestling Bad Guys: These Men Must Be Banned!* Plus: Scott Steiner, Bob Holly, Jimmy James, WCW cruisers.

Oct. 1999: WCW In Turmoil! Who's In Charge Here? *Wrestling Bad Guys: Happy Birthday, NWO!* Plus: Hak, Jerry Lawler, Yokozuna, WWF cliques.

Dec. 1999: 20 Wrestle In Peace! How 'Taker & Kane Can Bury Their Past Forever! *Wrestling Bad Guys: Triple-H—Finally, A Main-Eventer.* Plus: Curt Hennig, Van Hammer, Blackman-Shamrock, ECW-TNN.

Feb. 2000: Shocking WCW Survey! Even Hogan's "Friends" Don't Trust Him! *Wrestling Bad Guys: Rock Bottom! How Low Will This Man Go To Kiss Up To The Fans?* Plus: Storm & Credible, Shane McMahon, Brian Hildebrand.

April 2000: Vince—The Name That Will Haunt Bret Hart Forever! *Wrestling Bad Guys:* The Real Year-End Awards. Plus: Sandman, DX-Venis, Heroes PPV.

June 2000: Can The WWF Recapture The Magic Of WrestleMania? *Wrestling Bad Guys: History's Greatest Bad Guys Pick Their Favorites Of Today.* Plus: Jeff Jarrett, Awesome-Tanaka, Bobcat-Ryan Shamrock.

Aug. 2000: Vince Wants His Little Girl Back ... And Only Stone-Cold Can Help Him Get Her! *Wrestling Bad Guys: Wicked Women! Our Evil Evaluations Of Wrestling's Bad Girls!* Plus: Booker, Mickey Whipwreck, Super 8.

Oct. 2000: Who Wants To Beat A Millionaire? *Wrestling Bad Guys: The State Of Rulebreaking.* Plus: Justin Credible, Triple-H, Albright Memorial.

Feb. 2001 (132 pages, full-color): Stone-Cold vs. The Rock: Experts Pick The Winner Of The Ultimate Showdown! Plus: Sting, Bret Hart, Mikey Whipwreck, Lita, TQM.

June 2001 (132 pages, full-color): Daddy's Little Goldiggger! Stephanie Plays The Game Better Than Vince! Plus: Lex Luger, Tommy Dreamer, Hardys, Scoot Andrews, WCW cruisers.

2001 Annual (132 pages, full-color): Your Guide To Professional Wrestling. Unraveling WWF/WCW/ECW, complete indy guide, book of lists, top 30 prospects.

Make check or money order payable to:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Please send me the issue(s) of WRESTLE AMERICA
I have checked. I have enclosed $5 for each magazine ordered.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

For all orders outside the U.S, add $1.50 per issue to be delivered by surface mail or $3 per issue for airmail delivery. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

☐ AUG/92	☐ SUM/95	☐ FEB/99
☐ SEP/92	☐ FAL/95	☐ APR/99
☐ OCT/92	☐ WIN/95	☐ JUN/99
☐ NOV/92	☐ SPR/96	☐ AUG/99
☐ DEC/92	☐ SUM/96	☐ OCT/99
☐ JAN/93	☐ FAL/96	☐ DEC/99
☐ FEB/93	☐ WIN/96	☐ FEB/00
☐ MAR/93	☐ SPR/97	☐ APR/00
☐ APR/93	☐ SUM/97	☐ JUN/00
☐ NOV/93	☐ FAL/97	☐ AUG/00
☐ WIN/93	☐ WIN/97	☐ OCT/00
☐ SPR/94	☐ APR/98	☐ FEB/01
☐ SUM/94	☐ JUN/98	☐ JUN/01
☐ FAL/94	☐ AUG/98	☐ ANN/01
☐ WIN/94	☐ OCT/98	
☐ SPR/95	☐ DEC/98	

In case of sellout, indicate substitute: _____

5787-12-01

PWI official ratings

For period ended February 15, 2002

TOP 10

1. **CHRIS JERICHO**
   225, Winnipeg, Manitoba
   (1) WWF World champion
2. **KEIJI MUTO**
   245, Yamanashi, Japan
   (3) All-Japan Triple Crown champion
3. **STEVE AUSTIN**
   252, Victoria, TX
   (4) No. 2 contender: WWF World title
4. **TRIPLE-H**
   253, Greenwich, CT
   (7) No. 3 contender: WWF World title
5. **WILLIAM REGAL**
   257, Blackpool, England
   (-) WWF Intercontinental champion
6. **JUN AKIYAMA**
   225, Hiroshima, Japan
   (5) GHC heavyweight champion
7. **YUJI NAGATA**
   228, Tokyo, Japan
   (-) No. 1 contender: IWGP title
8. **THE ROCK**
   272, Miami, FL
   (2) No. 4 contender: WWF World title
9. **LEVIATHAN**
   325, parts unknown
   (10) OVW heavyweight champion
10. **SHINYA HASHIMOTO**
    287, Gifu, Japan
    (-) NWA heavyweight champion

William Regal

TAG TEAMS

1. **SPIKE DUDLEY & TAZZ**
   Combined weight: 403 pounds
   (1) WWF World tag team champions
2. **TAIYO KEA & KEIJI MUTO**
   Combined weight: 480 pounds
   (3) All-Japan International tag teeam champions
3. **BOOKER T & TEST**
   Combined weight: 532 pounds
   (-) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
4. **TAKAO OMORI & YOSHIHIRO TAKAYAMA**
   Combined weight: 491 pounds
   (-) GHC tag team championsw
5. **BUH BUH RAY & D-VON DUDLEY**
   Combined weight: 585 pounds
   (2) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
6. **MASA CHONO & HIROYOSHI TENZAN**
   Combined weight: 505 pounds
   (-) No. 1 contenders: IWGP International tag title
7. **BILLY GUNN & CHUCK PALUMBO**
   Combined weight: 524 pounds
   (4) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title
8. **ALBERT & SCOTTY TOO HOTTY**
   Combined weight: 556 pounds
   (6) No. 4 contenders: WWF World tag title
9. **MIKE BARTON & JIM STEELE**
   Combined weight: 553 pounds
   (-) No. 1 contenders: All-Japan International tag title
10. **DOUG BASHAM & DAMAJA**
    Combined weight: 481 pounds
    (-) OVW Southern tag team champions

WWF

World Champion:
CHRIS JERICHO
(C) 225, Winnipeg, Manitoba

1—**WILLIAM REGAL**
(10) 257, Blackpool, England
2—**STEVE AUSTIN**
(3) 252, Victoria, TX
3—**TRIPLE-H**
(4) 253, Greenwich, CT
4—**THE ROCK**
(2) 272, Miami, FL
5—**KURT ANGLE**
(5) 233, Pittsburgh, PA
6—**EDGE**
(1) 240, Toronto, Ontario
7—**ROB VAN DAM**
(6) 237, Battle Creek, MI
8—**KANE**
(–) 345, parts unknown
9—**THE UNDERTAKER**
(7) 304, Dallas, TX
10—**DALLAS PAGE**
(–) 260, Point Pleasant, NJ

OVW

OVW Champion:
LEVIATHAN
(C) 325, parts unknown

1—**PROTOTYPE**
(8) 260, Los Angeles, CA
2—**FLASH**
(1) 225, Detroit, MI
3—**BULL BUCHANAN**
(3) 325, Marietta, GA
4—**DOUG BASHAM**
(2) 241, Louisville, KY
5—**NICK DINSMORE**
(5) 226, Jefferson, IN
6—**DAMAJA**
(7) 240, Seymour, IN
7—**ROB CONWAY**
(–) 240, Pittsburgh, PA
8—**SHELTON BENJAMIN**
(–) 245, Minneapolis, MN
9—**D-LO BROWN**
(6) 281, Chicago, IL
10—**SEAN O'HAIRE**
(10) 270, Hilton Head, SC

NWA

NWA Champion:
SHINYA HASHIMOTO
(C) 287, Gifu, Japan

1—**QUINN MAGNUM**
(1) 265, Pittsburgh, PA
2—**SPYDER**
(–) 225, New York, NY
3—**HOTSTUFF HERNANDEZ**
(2) 280, Houston, TX
4—**A.J. STYLES**
(–) 202, Gainesville, GA
5—**GARY STEELE**
(4) 241, London, England
6—**DIRK CIGLAR**
(6) 195, Mount Pleasant, PA
7—**MAGNUM**
(–) 227, Wellston, OH
8—**TOM BRANDI**
(7) 248, Norristown, PA
9—**MIKE ANTHONY**
(–) 265, New York, NY
10—**BIG DON BRODIE**
(–) 350, Jackson, MS

NEW JAPAN

IWGP Champion:
TITLE VACANT

1—**YUJI NAGATA**
(1) 228, Tokyo, Japan
2—**KENSUKE SASAKI**
(5) 251, Tokyo, Japan
3—**TADAO YASUDA**
(2) 310, Tokyo, Japan
4—**MASA CHONO**
(6) 235, Tokyo, Japan
5—**RICK STEINER**
(8) 257, Detroit, MI
6—**JUSHIN LIGER**
(9) 222, Hiroshima, Japan
7—**HIROYOSHI TENZAN**
(–) 270, Tokyo, Japan
8—**RIKI CHOSHU**
(–) 246, Yamaguchi, Japan
9—**GIANT SILVA**
(4) 494, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
10—**MINORU TANAKA**
(–) 219, Tokyo, Japan

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

BORDER CITY WRESTLING: Champion—Johnny Swinger; **1**—Nova; **2**—Simon Diamond; **3**—Scott D'Amore; **4**—El Tornado; **5**—Otis Apollo; **6**—Tyson Dux; **7**—Gutter; **8**—Chris Sabin; **9**—Ruffy Silverstein; **10**—Yukon Braxton.

CENTRAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion—Terry Alan; **1**—Jimmy Valiant; **2**—Mongoose; **3**—Dr. Love; **4**—King Paul; **5**—Maddawg; **6**—Miss Diamond; **7**—Jimmy Justice; **8**—Joe Price; **9**—Skip Sherwood; **10**—Redneck Superstar.

CHAOTIC WRESTLING: Champion—Luis Ortiz; **1**—John Walters; **2**—Aaron Stevens; **3**—Gino Martino; **4**—Dukes Dalton; **5**—Arch Kincaid; **6**—Ali Muhammed; **7**—Vince Vacallo; **8**—Chris Harvard; **9**—Big Mike Studd; **10**—Scarecrow.

EAST COAST WRESTLING ASSOCIATION: Champion—Scoot Andrews; **1**—Mozart Fontaine; **2**—Billy Fives; **3**—Cheetah Master; **4**—Prince Nana; **5**—Low-Ki; **6**—Xavier; **7**—Red; **8**—Mr. Ooh La La; **9**—Christopher Daniels; **10**—Japanese Pool Boy.

EXODUS WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion—George South; **1**—Rick Morton; **2**—Jimmy Valiant; **3**—Jason King; **4**—George South Jr.; **5**—Masked Superstar II; **6**—Cruel Connection II; **7**—Gary Royal; **8**—Mad Maxx; **9**—Ivan Koloff; **10**—Tommy Ace.

IPW HARDCORE WRESTLING: Champion—Billy Fives; **1**—Scoot Andrews; **2**—A.J. Styles; **3**—Jeff Bradley; **4**—Rastaman; **5**—Mike Sullivan; **6**—David Young; **7**—Mike Shane; **8**—Pat McGroin; **9**—Todd Shane; **10**—Pat Powers.

MILLENNIUM PRO WRESTLING: Champion—Tech-9; **1**—Frankie Kazarian; **2**—Christopher Daniels; **3**—Cincinnati Red; **4**—The Messiah; **5**—Samoa Joe; **6**—Phenomenal Phil; **7**—Super Dragon; **8**—Rising Son; **9**—Excalibur; **10**—B-Boy.

NWA SOUTHWEST: Champion—Mike Anthony; **1**—J.P. Black; **2**—Chaz Taylor; **3**—The Devastator; **4**—Al Jackson; **5**—Kevin Northcutt; **6**—Chris Young; **7**—Ikaika Loa; **8**—Brian Brenham; **9**—Rudy Boy Gonzalez; **10**—Hellraiser Hark.

NWA WILDSIDE: Champion—A.J. Styles; **1**—David Young; **2**—Rick Michaels; **3**—Adam Jacobs; **4**—Jason Cross; **5**—Onyx; **6**—Iceberg; **7**—Tank; **8**—Jeremy Lopez; **9**—Jimmy Rave; **10**—Todd Sexton.

SOUTHERN STATES WRESTLING: Champion—Beau James; **1**—Ricky Harrison; **2**—Flex Armstrong; **3**—Roger Anderson; **4**—Andy Douglas; **5**—John Noble; **6**—Allen King; **7**—Ray Idol; **8**—Brian Logan; **9**—Tony Givens; **10**—David Garvin.

WORLD LEAGUE WRESTLING: Champion—Drill Instructor; **1**—Ron Harris; **2**—Bull Schmitt; **3**—Butch Reed; **4**—Wade Chism; **5**—Superstar Steve; **6**—Matt Murphy; **7**—Trevor Rhodes; **8**—Brandon Walker; **9**—Marc Godecker; **10**—Derek McQuinn.

WORLD XTREME WRESTLING: Champion—Samu; **1**—Low-Ki; **2**—Malachi; **3**—Samoan Storm; **4**—Big Dawg Molsonn; **5**—Sugaa; **6**—Shane Black; **7**—Supreme Lee Great; **8**—Tommy Suede; **9**—L.A. Smooth; **10**—Inferno.

ALL-JAPAN

Triple Crown Champion:
KEIJI MUTO
(C) 245, Yamanashi, Japan

1—TOSHIAKI KAWADA
(1) 245, Ashikaga, Japan
2—GENICHIRO TENRYU
(3) 235, Tokyo, Japan
3—TAIYO KEA
(5) 235, Honolulu, HI
4—MIKE BARTON
(10) 263, Austin, TX
5—SATOSHI KOJIMA
(–) 223, Tokyo, Japan
6—STEVE WILLIAMS
(8) 265, Norman, OK
7—MIKE ROTUNDO
(–) 255, Syracuse, NY
8—NOBUTAKA ARAYA
(–) 244, Chigasaki, Japan
9—HIROSHI HASE
(2) 225, Tokyo, Japan
10—MITSUYA NAGAI
(6) 238, Hokkaido, Japan

PRO WRESTLING NOAH

GHC Champion:
JUN AKIYAMA
(C) 225, Hiroshima, Japan

1—MITSUHARU MISAWA
(1) 228, Ashikaga, Japan
2—KENTA KOBASHI
(–) 282, Fukuchiyama, Japan
3—TAKAO OMORI
(3) 221, Tokyo, Japan
4—YOSHIHIRO TAKAYAMA
(4) 270, Sapporo, Japan
5—VADER
(2) 450, Denver, CO
6—YOSHINARI OGAWA
(6) 202, Fichigi, Japan
7—TAKUMA SANO
(–) 220, Tomakomai, Japan
8—JUVENTUD GUERRERA
(–) 165, Mexico City, Mexico
9—2 COLD SCORPIO
(8) 222, Denver, CO
10—TAKESHI RIKIOH
(7) 286, Sakurai, Japan

EMLL

EMLL Champion:
UNIVERSO DOS MIL
(C) 240, Mexico City, Mexico

1—NEGRO CASAS
(1) 175, Mexico City, Mexico
2—PIERROTH JR.
(5) 251, Cuernavaca, Mexico
3—SHOCKER
(2) 185, Guadalajara, Mexico
4—ATLANTIS
(6) 180, Guadalajara, Mexico
5—FUERZA GUERRERA
(4) 175, Mexico City, Mexico
6—FELINO
(3) 165, Mexico City, Mexico
7—EL HIJO DEL SANTO
(7) 180, Tulancingo, Mexico
8—DR. WAGNER JR.
(9) 215, Mexico City, Mexico
9—RAYO DE JALISCO JR.
(10) 270, Guadalajara, Mexico
10—EMILIO CHARLES JR.
(8) 222, Mexico City, Mexico

AAA

AAA Champion:
LATIN LOVER
(C) 190, Monterrey, Mexico

1—PERRO AGUAYO JR.
(2) 165, Zacatecas, Mexico
2—HECTOR GARZA
(3) 220, Monterrey, Mexico
3—HEAVY METAL
(1) 180, Mexico City, Mexico
4—MASCARA SAGRADA
(6) 249, Veracruz, Mexico
5—PIRATA MORGAN
(5) 221, Mexico City, Mexico
6—OCTAGON
(–) 180, Monterrey, Mexico
7—ABISMO NEGRO
(7) 210, Pachua, Mexico
8—EL CANEK
(4) 235, Mexico City, Mexico
9—CIBERNETICO
(9) 235, Mexico City, Mexico
10—ELECTRO SHOCK
(8) 208, Mexico City, Mexico

ratings analysis

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 22 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important–and respected–ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Underdogs who dominate! We weren't too optimistic about the tag team title reign of **Spike Dudley** and **Tazz** when they won the WWF belts from **Buh Buh Ray** and **D-Von Dudley** in early-January at Madison Square Garden. It wasn't that we didn't think they were worthy champions. Anything but. It was nice to see two underdogs pick up such a huge win. But we suspected that this would turn into one of the shorter tag team title reigns in WWF history. Maybe a few days ... perhaps a week or two at the longest.

Tazz

After all, Tazz had been humiliated through much of 2001. Surely he wasn't going to turn things around that quickly and that dramatically in 2002. And Spike, for all his courage, toughness, and determination—he was getting bounced around the ring regularly by stars like **Steve Austin** and **The Undertaker** and not getting in much offense in the process. He couldn't stay on top of even the tag team division for long, we reasoned.

But more than one month after the reign of Tazz and Spike began, they were still going strong and looking, quite frankly, great. They beat Buh Buh Ray and D-Von again at the Royal Rumble and survived challenges from all the best teams in the WWF, sometimes in three-way matches against duos such as **Billy Gunn** and **Chuck Palumbo** and **Albert** and **Scotty Too Hotty**. Now, for the second month in a row, Tazz and Spike are atop our tag team ratings. Maybe we've been underestimating them all along. It doesn't appear as if either man is going to make much of an impact on the singles division anytime soon, so this team could stick around for a while. And if they continue to look good in the ring together and continue to get over well with fans, they could take the number-one spot in the rankings in many future issues of this magazine.

Book's not cookin' ... Steve Austin. **The Rock**. **Triple-H**. Even the aforementioned little Spike Dudley. They've all done a pretty good job of handling **Booker T** recently. Book has quickly and quietly gone from WCW World champion/top contender to the WWF World title back to tag team specialist in less than half a year. As a result, a man who was once a fixture in our overall Top 10 has disappeared from the singles ratings completely in this issue.

It's difficult to figure out why this has happened. Booker made for a very good and very entertaining foil for The Rock late last summer. Too bad he could never get a big win over him. Then, after the Alliance was vanquished by Team WWF in the main event of Survivor Series, he convinced **Vince McMahon** himself to reinstate him. When Vinnie Mac did just that, Booker rewarded his employer by targeting "Stone-Cold" on his behalf. That feud didn't last, however, and Austin clearly got the better of it. And although he got off to a good start by pinning Triple-H on *Raw* (after **Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley's** interference backfired), he hasn't fared well overall in their series of matches.

Booker T

We can only hope that the WWF hasn't lost all faith in Booker as a singles wrestler. He proved he could be a headliner in WCW (even if it was while the company was on its deathbed) and has looked good in most of his high-profile matches in the WWF so far. Perhaps he would be better off as a fan favorite. Heck, maybe he'll be one of the men who stands up against the NWO in the next few months. Booker and his brother, **Stevie Ray**, feuded with the NWO's **Scott Hall** and **Kevin Nash** shortly after the group began its reign of terror in WCW in 1996, so there could be some unfinished business left there. Remember, Booker did his best work in WCW with the fans supporting him.

The good news for Booker is that he and **Test** do get the number-three slot in our tag team ratings this month, as they quickly elevated themselves to number-one contender status in the WWF in February. Booker and Test won both the WCW and WWF world tag titles last year, yet they failed to distinguish themselves as an elite team and went their separate ways shortly after they lost their gold.

We wouldn't be surprised if their new alliance was a short-lived one as well. But hey, didn't we make the same prediction about Spike and Tazz not long ago?

That's all we have! As always, if you have any questions or comments regarding our ratings or what you see here, we'd love to hear from you. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

HE'S THE ROCK, STEVE AUSTIN, & ROB VAN DAM ROLLED INTO ONE...HE'S THE GRANDEST WIZARD!

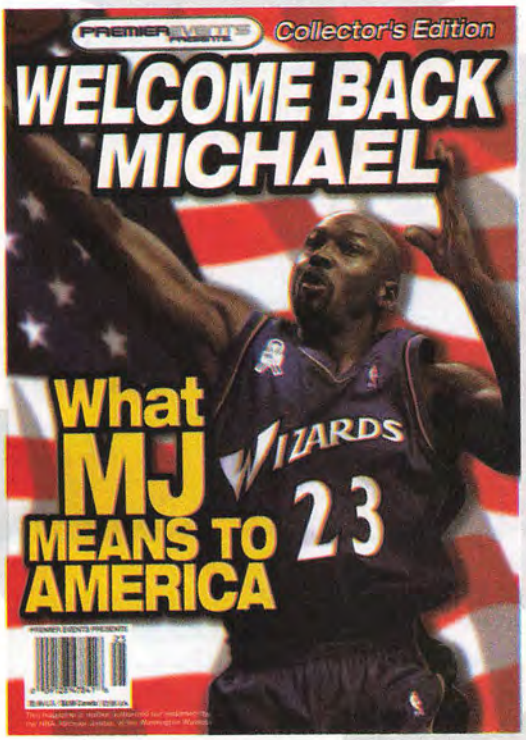
HE'S MJ —MICHAEL JORDAN!

PREMIER EVENTS PRESENTS
a tribute to the greatest athlete of all-time,
MICHAEL JORDAN!

This full-color, 84-page collector's edition traces the career of this true American icon from his brilliant collegiate days at North Carolina to his six NBA championships, two Olympic gold medals, and two successful returns from retirement.

"Welcome Back Michael" includes all this and more:

- The inside story of MJ's latest comeback
- Career stats and records
- Matchups with the NBA's stars
- Dazzling color photography



Available for a limited time only. Order today!

Clip Coupon and Send to: **London Publishing Co., P.O. Box 910, Ft. Washington, PA 19034**

☐ **Please send me WELCOME BACK MICHAEL.**
I am enclosing $5.99 per copy (plus $2 postage and handling) as payment in full for each issue.

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card #_____

Expiration Date:____/____
MO/YR

Signature:_____

YOUR NAME_____

ADDRESS_____ APT.____

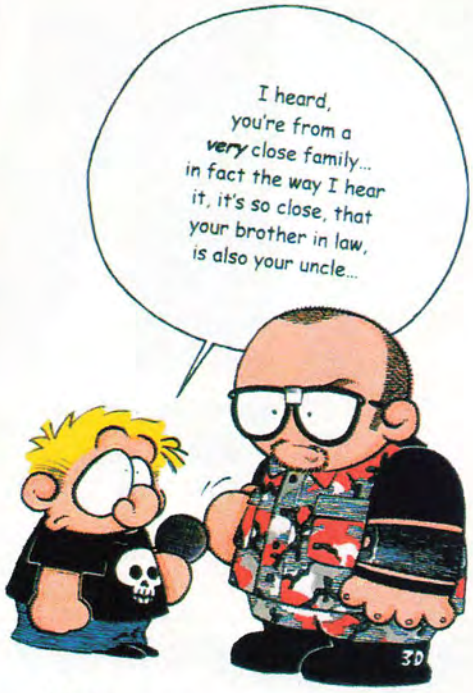
CITY_____ STATE____ ZIP_____

For all orders outside the U.S. and Canada, you must add $1 for every copy to be delivered by surface mail or $2 for every copy to be delivered by airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

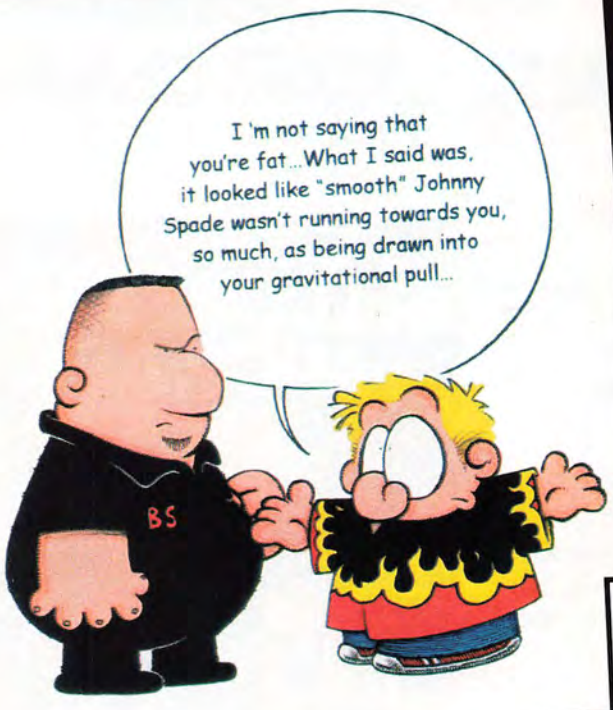
5781/11-01/4c

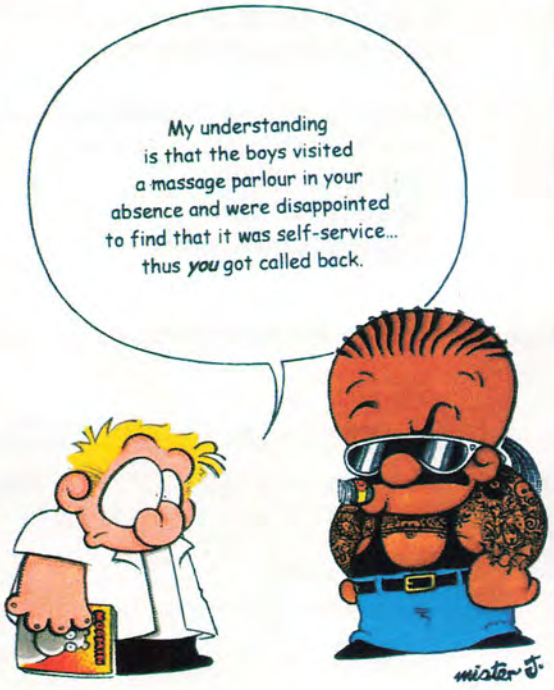
drawing BLOOD

By Jason Conlan



Mister j discusses the Dudley family tree...


I 'm not saying that you're fat...What I said was, it looked like "smooth" Johnny Spade wasn't running towards you, so much, as being drawn into your gravitational pull...

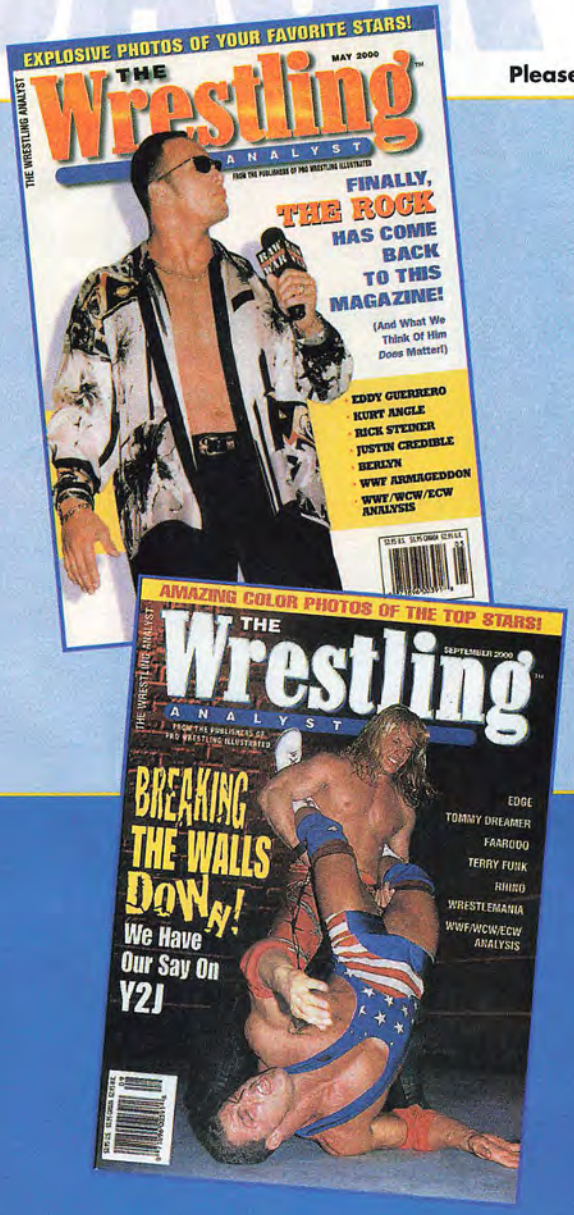

My understanding is that the boys visited a massage parlour in your absence and were disappointed to find that it was self-service... thus you got called back.

I heard that you were trying to learn English by one of those self-learning records Mr. Hashimoto... only, once you were asleep, it got stuck... still, at least now you can stutter in English...

THE Wrestling ANALYST

BACK ISSUES

Back issues of *The Wrestling Analyst* are still available in limited quantities. Printed on high-gloss paper and jammed with color photos, *The Wrestling Analyst* received acclaim for its insightful evaluations of top stars, PPV events, and the major wrestling federations. Order now before our limited supply is exhausted!



Please use the order form below, including $5.00 for each issue ordered.

- ☐ **May 1998:** Shawn Michaels, Ken Shamrock, Dallas Page, Vader, Steiners, Sabu, Cactus Jack.
- ☐ **Sept. 1998:** Steve Austin, Booker T., Kane, Bam Bam Bigelow, Scott Norton, Perry Saturn, Tom Brandi, WrestleMania XIV.
- ☐ **Nov. 1998:** Bill Goldberg, Eddie Guerrero, Mark Mero, Headbangers, Brian Christopher, Lance Storm, D-Lo Brown, Bash at the Beach.
- ☐ **Jan. 1999:** Owen Hart , Bret Hart, Jeff Jarrett, Disco Inferno, Taka Michinoku, Chris Candido, Fit Finlay, SummerSlam.
- ☐ **March 1999:** New Age Outlaws, Mark Henry, The Giant, D.O.A., 2 Cold Scorpio, Tracy Smothers, Halloween Havoc.
- ☐ **May 1999:** Scott Hall, X-Pac, Lex Luger, Chris Jericho, Val Venis, Al Snow, Rob Van Dam, Starrcade.
- ☐ **July 1999:** Vince McMahon, Dudleys, Billy Kidman, Goldust, Konnan, Dan Severn, Valentine's Day Massacre, WWF-WCW-ECW.
- ☐ **Sept. 1999:** Sable, Triple-H, Chris Benoit, Juventud Guerrera, Jerry Lynn, Bossman, Norman Smiley, WWF-WCW-ECW.
- ☐ **Nov. 1999:** Sting, Godfather, Super Crazy, Darren Drozdov, Horace Hogan, Great American Bash, WWF-WCW-ECW.
- ☐ **Jan. 2000:** Hulk Hogan, Steve Austin, Bruno Sammartino, Bob Backlund, Bret Hart, Shawn Michaels, Pedro Morales, Randy Savage.
- ☐ **March 2000:** Chyna, Sid Vicious, Steve Blackman, Yoshihiro Tajiri, Barry Windham, Unforgiven, WWF-WCW-ECW.
- ☐ **May 2000:** The Rock, Eddie Guerrero, Kurt Angle, Rick Steiner, Justin Credible, Berlyn, Armageddon, WWF-WCW-ECW.
- ☐ **July 2000:** Rikishi, Test, Madusa, Mike Awesome, Meng, Albert, Royal Rumble, WWF-WCW-ECW.
- ☐ **Sept. 2000:** Chris Jericho, Edge, Tommy Dreamer, Terry Funk, Rhino, WrestleMania, WWF-WCW-ECW.

Name _____

Address _____ Apt.# _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Please indicate method of payment:

- ☐ *Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)*
- ☐ *VISA #* _____
- ☐ *MasterCard #* _____

Expiration Date: ____ / ____
MO YR

Signature: _____

Send To: **London Publishing Co.**
P.O. 910
Fort Washington, PA 19034

For all orders outside the U.S., please add $1.50 for every issue to be sent via surface mail and $3 for every issue to be sent airmail Int'l money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

5393/11-00/4c

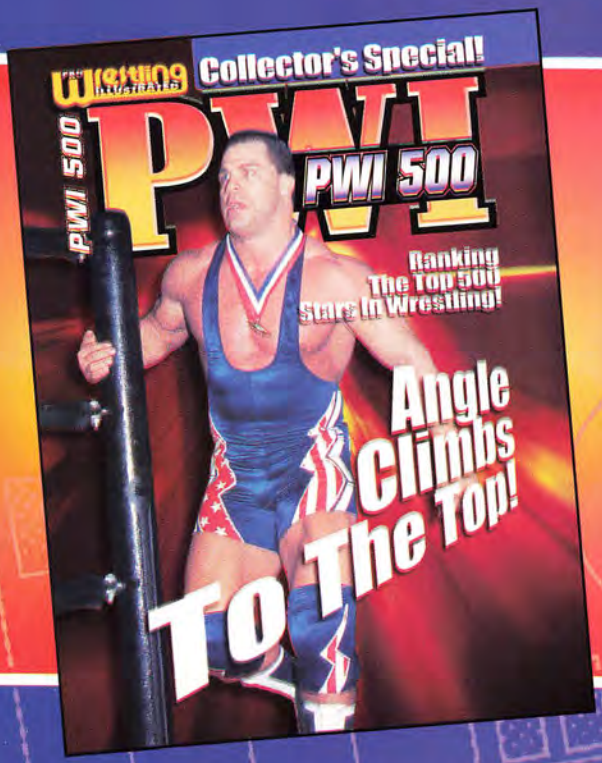
hot shot

This is just about all you need to see if you're looking for reasons why The Hurricane did not win the 2002 Royal Rumble and go on to WrestleMania to challenge for the WWF World title. Sure, his lack of size hurt him, but winning the Rumble is all about strategy, dammit! He drew a pretty good number (23rd man in), yet he just had to go and act like a superhero. As he is nimble and quick, good strategy for him when confronted by both Triple-H and Steve Austin would have been to run like hell around the ring and avoid locking up at all costs. Instead, he went for the double-choke-slam. The response of Hunter and "Stone-Cold"? Something like, "Uh, we don't think so." Seconds later, Hurricane was history.

Photo by Vern Verna

SUBSCRIBE TO PWI AND $20 IS YOURS TO KEEP!

That's what you'll save when you subscribe to PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED for a year!



Now is the perfect time to take advantage of this tremendous offer. With our all-new, full-color format, PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED is the talk of the wrestling business. For more than 20 years, PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED has set the standard by which wrestling magazines are published—and now we are raising the bar!

100-page regular issues of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED alternating monthly with 116-page PWI specials ... The highest-quality coated paper ... Full ringside coverage of every wrestling organization ... Internationally renowned columnists and artists ... High-impact photography ... Everything you've always wanted—in dazzling color!

SAVE MORE THAN $20.00!

Send To: **London Publishing Co.**
P.O. Box 2021, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8121

THREE WAYS TO SAVE!

Please Check Off The One You Wish To Order:

☐ 1 year of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED (6 issues) for $23.75. **Save nearly $6.00!**

☐ 1 year of PWI (6 issues) for $28.50. **Save more than $7.00!**

Save $20.00!

☐ 1 year of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED and PWI (12 issues) for $45.00!

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA #_____

☐ MasterCard #_____

Expiration Date: ___/___
MO/YR

Signature:_____

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____ APT._____

CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____

For Canada and all other countries: $28.55 for PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED ($38.75 airmail); $33.30 for PWI ($43.50 airmail); $54.60 for PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED and PWI ($75.00 airmail). All orders outside the U.S., international money orders in U.S. funds only. Offer expires December 31, 2002.

A0202R

5775/11-01/4c

PRO Wrestling® ILLUSTRATED

UPDATED EVERY WEEKDAY AND AFTER PAY-PER-VIEW EVENTS

HOTLINE

HOSTED BY WILL WELSH

When it comes to wrestling, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* magazine has all the inside information you want and it's only a phone call away.

If it happens in the ring, the locker room, or on the road, you'll hear it here first.

To get all the breaking stories from every federation, call the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Hotline now and you'll be the first to learn about ...

Exclusive news from behind the scenes
Upcoming events
Up-to-date results from around the world
Title changes and transactions
Pay-per-view reports
Wrestler of the week
Exclusive scouting reports

Plus ... Tell the editors of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* what you want to see in the magazine. Dictate a letter to the Editor-in-Chief. Selected letters will be printed in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated.*

CALL NOW

IN THE U.S., 1-900-226-4PWI
IN CANADA, 1-900-451-3101

☎ This service is available on both touch-tone and rotary-dial phones.

*Cost per minute in the United States is $1.99.
Cost per minute Canada is $2.49.
Kids, get your parents' permission.

5903/02-02

IN THE U.S., 1-900-226-4PWI

IN CANADA, 1-900-451-3101